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ARTS

• The **BMA's Print Fair** only happens every two years, and this year it served up some serious art — even a Picasso, **B3**.



SPORTS

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SCIENCE

• The **Hubble Telescope** spies the youngest galaxy ... ever, **B6**.
• A mother's genetic make-up may trigger **autism** in her infant, **B6**.

Council proposes changes in funding process

By **MAX McKENNA**
News & Features Editor

In an attempt to simplify the funding process for student groups, the Student Life Commission is proposing a total restructuring of the board that currently controls these funds.

The Student Life Commission, which is made up of Student Council members and the presidents and vice presidents of each class, will propose the new system to the Student Council Finance Committee,

which must then approve it.

"The Finance Committee has been discussing the benefits of a block funding-based system since the beginning of the year," Finance Committee Chair Joshua Loveall said.

Loveall explained the main complication of a block-funding system is it can be difficult to administer retroactively if funding was appropriate.

He also expressed a desire for block funding to be discussed in general Council meetings and noted in the "limited set-

ting of the Student Life Commission." He added he has heard nothing of Student Life's specific proposal.

The new "block-funding" system would eliminate a "class-funding" system, give all groups money at the start of each year, and provide contingency funds through a group-category system.

"The major point is to make groups work together," said junior Justine Mink, vice president of the Student Life Commission. "The problem is there has been little cooperation among the groups."

The Student Life Commission will recommend this system to the Finance Committee before budgeting decisions are made next month. The Finance Committee will then be permitted to consider and then approve the reformation.

"The way the senators on Finance vote will depend on how the StuLife Commission's proposal implements the system. We agree that funding policy needs to change, but will not vote blindly for change that doesn't actually improve the

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Hopkins Class of 2026



Ten-month-old Michael Zook-Friesen, son of Experiential Education Coordinator Phil Zook-Friesen, enjoyed the spring-like weather on the Beach yesterday.

LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Chemical spill injures two grad students working in lab

Two hospitalized after accident Wednesday night

By **MARIE CUSHING**
News & Features Editor

Graduate students Heejin Kim and Yuqi Lee were injured yesterday evening after a lab accident in the New Chemistry Building resulted in the production of a harmful acid.

Hopkins security responded to the situation before Baltimore firefighters and hazardous material experts arrived on the scene.

"The reaction was not what was expected. The result of the reaction occurring in an unexpected way led to a small amount of acid being spilled on the lab floor," University spokesman Dennis O'Shea said.

A representative from Sinai Hospital said there was no record of Kim being admitted.

Lee was discharged from the emergency room later that evening, but the hospital would not comment on the extent of her injuries.

O'Shea did not know which acid had been created in the accident.

He said that transportation to the hospital was done merely as a precaution, but had not been updated on their conditions.

Chemistry student Li and Applied Mathematics and Statistics student Kim were in room 227, a lab located on the second floor of the New Chemistry Building, when the accident occurred.

In the wake of this accident, the University may reconsider its lab safety policies.

"I think any accident is a time to reconsider protocol and if you are doing the right thing," O'Shea said.

He added that the fire department complemented security's reaction to the spill.

"The fire department spokesperson

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Council looks to move on after confrontation with University

By **MARIE CUSHING**
News & Features Editor

The Student Council may further strain its relationship with administrators by protesting the University's decision to revoke the sophomore Greek housing exemption.

The Council recently passed a resolution demanding improved communication and transparency from the University.

While Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell said she was happy to work with the Council, she questioned the need for a resolution demanding change.

"I don't agree with everything in the resolution and feel that the administration would have been responsive to the



Freshman class President Dan Teran discussed the Council's issues.

FILE PHOTO

Council's concerns in whatever form they brought them forward," she said.

Boswell did not specify which parts of the resolution she disagreed with.

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EILEEN HUANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Fresh Food Café serves only trans fat-free foods. A state bill would demand the same in Maryland.

State lawmakers look to tackle use of trans fats

Hopkins eliminated trans fats from its dining halls last year

By **PHYLLIS ZHU**
For The News-Letter

Maryland is looking at ways to curb the use of trans fats in restaurants, but Hopkins Dining is one step ahead.

All foods that are prepared in on-campus Dining facilities have been trans-fat free for over a year — that includes dining spots such as the Fresh Food Café (FFC), Nolan's and Levering. Other dining places on campus, like the Charles Street Market, are not trans fat-free since they sell many pre-packaged goods. However, both the deli and "Hot and Not" buffet items are trans fat-free.

"We only needed to make some minor ingredient changes to be trans fat-free. In conjunction with and with support from our food contractor, we made the decision to do so because offering the best and healthiest products are two primary goals of our campus dining program," Director of Dining Programs David Furhman said.

The state bill, Bill 81, "Task Force to Study the Regulation of Artificial

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By **JAMES ZHE**
News-Letter Staff Writer

The threat of American military action in Iran is real, according to veteran New York Times correspondent Stephen Kinzer, who spoke to a small audience in Shriver Hall last night.

Hopkins is one of the last stops on a 22-city tour by Kinzer and a panel of other Middle East experts who are promoting a cooperative relationship with Iran.

Speaking before an enthusiastic crowd from the Hopkins community, Kinzer highlighted the reasons for his strong opposition against war on Iran.

"Many people in the U.S. currently assume that the U.S.-Iranian relations began and ended with the hostage crisis of 1979, but the hostage crisis didn't just come out of nowhere. It occurred for a reason," he said.

For Kinzer, the Iranian hostage crisis of 1979 was almost a direct consequence of America's previous intervention and support for the Shah, the Iranian dictator put in power by the United States in 1953.

The consequences of American intervention usually emit a much larger and influence on future politics, Kinzer argued.

The nationwide tour series is a response to President George W. Bush's singling out of Iran for its illegal nuclear proliferation programs in his most recent State of the Union address.

Suspensions about Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program have resurfaced in recent months, as the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted for further sanctions on the Middle Eastern nation this Monday.

At the same time, recent intelligence reports from the CIA and other U.N. member nations question the validity of such allegations.

Kinzer argued that peaceful relations with Iran would contribute to

certain American interests, like providing a stabilizing force in the conflicted Middle Eastern region. The United States could work as partners with Iran to cooperatively extract Iran's crude oil and other rich natural resources.

As a last remark, Kinzer encouraged students to become more informed about relations with Iran and to

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LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Journalist Stephen Kinzer spoke at Hopkins about the threat of war in Iran.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER

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NEWS & FEATURES

Homewood names new human resources director

By ANNE FABER
For The News-Letter

Having only been on the job for a week and a half, new Director of Human Resources Arthur McCombs is looking forward to the challenge that his new position presents.

McCombs plans to implement a baseline program before assessing and creating changes to existing services.

"Whenever you think about change in management or improving services or what we call 'continuing improvement' you try to adopt a specific formula or plan based on the needs of that organization," McCombs said.

The methods used for assessment include staff interviews within the human resources department as well as interviews with Hopkins faculty and staff, along with surveys for evaluating customer satisfaction.

"I will be able to come up with some conclusions ... and potentially specific recommendations about where we can go in terms of redesigning our services," McCombs said.

In response to recent health care cuts for faculty and staff, McCombs said that his current job is to "assist staff and faculty to maximize the benefits available to them."

"I don't have any data to tell me that they [the faculty and staff members] are dissatisfied ... In my opinion the benefits are attractive and competitive," he said.

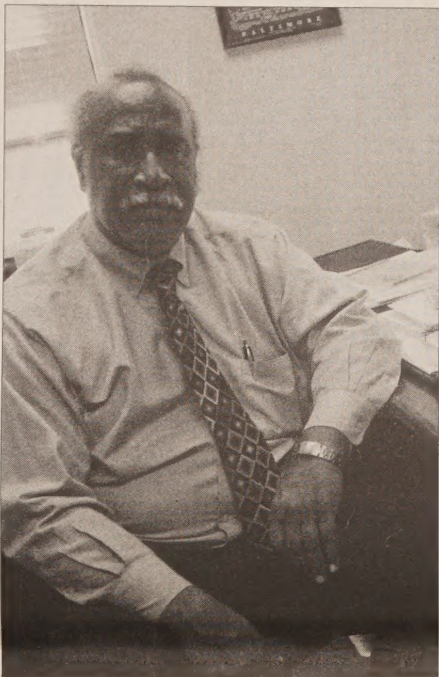
The role of human resources at Homewood is to give assistance to staff and managers in order to main-

tain positive labor relations. The department works to ensure that both sides involved in labor relations have accurate information regarding what their rights are.

McCombs has most recently served as vice president for human resources at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y. He also has been a senior human resources consultant at Martin Luther King/Charles Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles and the principal and owner of a human resources consulting firm, AMC Consulting.

He brings to Homewood human resources over 20 years of experience from working at institutions like the Duke University Medical Center and Yale-New Haven Health System as well as the Institute for Genomic Research.

McCombs succeeds interim director Patricia Day, who is the senior director of employee and labor relations.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
McCombs, the newly hired director of human resources, is responsible for improving the employee experience.

Hopkins partnerships strengthen global presence

By MING WEN
News-Letter Staff Writer

As more universities look to innovative methods of globalization, Hopkins institutions have taken the traditional route — building their international presence through hospital partnerships, research collaborations and joint-degree programs.

The University has recently strengthened its relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) through medical partnerships and connections between hospitals.

"Johns Hopkins faculty have many, many research partnerships with colleagues from around the world — too many to list. There is no central database that chronicles all those relationships," said Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and International Programs Pam Cranston.

Last week, Hopkins revealed plans to take over management of a smaller hospital in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Additionally, the Bloomberg School of Public Health announced a collaboration with the public health authority of the UAE.

"The way we work in the institutions helps Hopkins improve the situation around the world and not only the United States," said Hopkins Health System Interim Director for Marketing Emilio Williams.

The goal of these and similar programs is to reduce the need for patients to travel abroad for care. The results of these programs are impacting the way hospitals are managing the region.

Hopkins has established a ten-year partnership with the General Authority for Healthcare Services of Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates.

Hopkins Medicine enhanced the oncology services at the prestigious Tawam Hospital and will assist in a range of improvements, including the designing new programs, revising the medical school curriculum and training nurses and technical staff.

But for the University, international connections extend beyond the world of medicine.

The Paul H. Nitze School of

Advanced International Studies (SAIS) offers joint-degree programs in two distinct parts of the world: Italy and China.

While the programs are currently only available to graduate students, Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell has never received complaints from Hopkins undergraduates about this.

The Italy-based Bologna Center has been an integral part of SAIS for the past five decades. The Center boasts a student body of more than 200 who can choose from 60 course offerings.

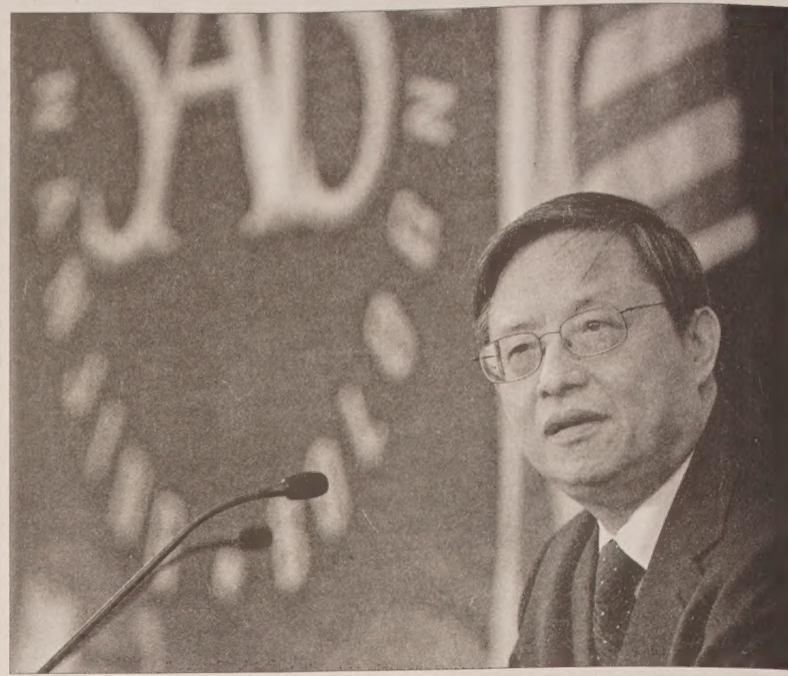
Students primarily go for degrees in Master of Arts (M.A.), though some strive for the Master of Arts in International Affairs. Candidates can concentrate on international relations and economics in Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. They can focus on International issues and development or American foreign policy.

Half of first-year SAIS students start in Bologna, Italy. Eighty-five percent of students who attend Bologna Center spend their second year in Washington, D.C.

The curriculum is nearly identical — the major difference being the European origins of Bologna Center's part time faculty. Tuition was at parity with SAIS Washington until a few years ago when it was switched to euro values.

"Currently with the appreciation of the euro, the tuition at SAIS Bologna in dollar terms is slightly higher than in Washington but the living costs are a bit lower. For the most part, the SAIS Bologna Center is financially independent from SAIS in Washington, D.C."

On the other side of the globe, a different model is used.



COURTESY OF KAVEH SARDARI
Zhou Wenzhong, the Chinese ambassador to the United States, spoke at SAIS Nanjing in China.

The SAIS Nanjing Center in China is a joint operation between Johns Hopkins SAIS and Nanjing University that admits 50 Chinese students and 50 international students per year.

It is the only joint program of its kind in China and home to the only uncensored, open-stacks library in China. The Center was founded in 1986 by Former Hopkins President Steven Muller and former NJU President Kuang Yaming.

The SAIS Nanjing Center's M.A. program is unique in that it brings Chinese and international students together in the classroom — a feature that is not found in other joint programs in China.

"We believe that the model that mixes international students and Chinese students in the same classroom, will enhance the education of both groups through their interaction in class. In the past with just the certificate program, most of the interaction between the students took place outside of the classroom," Harrington said.

The Nanjing Center offers a one-year certificate in Chinese

and American studies in which Chinese students take courses in English from international faculty who are primarily American.

Meanwhile, international students who speak English as their native language take courses in Chinese from Chinese faculty members. Chinese and international students interact both inside and outside of the classroom.

Starting in the fall of 2006, the Nanjing Center began to offer a two-year M.A. program, with the degree being offered through both Johns Hopkins SAIS and Nanjing University.

"The curriculum is modeled to a large extent on the M.A. program at SAIS Washington. It is interdisciplinary with a focus on both international economics and international relations," Dean Harrington said. Students in the M.A. program take most of their courses in their target language and must complete a thesis.

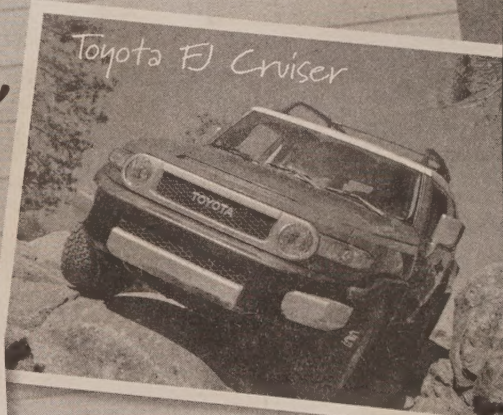
Usually students admitted into SAIS degree program are in pursuit of an M.A. The majority of half of the students come from Europe, while the other half are from the United States.

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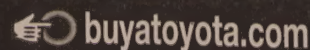
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NEWS & FEATURES

Things I've Learned, with rock music professor Paul Mathews

By SARAH GRANT
News-Letter Staff Writer

Paul Mathews, Peabody professor of music theory and Homewood professor of rock music, talks about his days as a Peabody Prep student and reconciling his two loves, classical and popular music.

News-Letter: Was your family musical?
Paul Mathews: No, not particularly. My father worked here at the Domino Sugar Plant and my mom stayed home.

N-L: So how did you fall into music?
PM: My mom had a part time job at a music distributor, so I was in contact with a lot of music businesses. Through that, she sort of set me up with piano lessons. From there, I took it up in school and stayed with it.

N-L: Were you originally interested in classical, or was it just something separate?
PM: Mostly I was a drummer in a rock band. Then I sort of had an epiphany my last year of high school when I heard music of Igor Stravinsky and decided that was where it really was, so moved towards that.

N-L: You originally studied at Peabody Prep. Did you have any idea that's where you would wind up later in life?
PM: No idea. I had no desire to go there until graduate school.

N-L: Was there an individual in your life who piqued your interest into what would become a career path?
PM: I had a much older brother and he kind of steered my musical tastes towards acts like, say, Led Zeppelin or Steely Dan.

N-L: Had you not chosen music, what path might you have taken?
PM: Perhaps writing. I used to write fiction in college. I really like Pixar, so the idea of writing

screenplays or animated features would interest me.
N-L: You recently published a book, *Orchestrations*.
PM: Right. It's an anthology. I'm currently working another one that I'm covering. It's about Pierrot Lumaire, a seminal 1912 new music pianist.

N-L: In *Orchestrations* you discuss several theories behind orchestration. In your own works, how have these theories manifested?
PM: As a composer, I've been mostly writing chamber music and an opera, so I wouldn't say terribly much. It's just my teaching. I was actually hired by Peabody to teach orchestration. So the constant teaching and constant studying of it is what generated the materials that I used in the book.

N-L: Which do you consider yourself first: a composer or professor?
PM: I am a professor who composes incidentally.

N-L: What is the most challenging aspect of your work in either field?
PM: I would say the work I do when I'm actually working is fine. It's when you have to take it to other people. Publishers are just so hard to work with. Or when you're composing and you have to take it to the performers. Taking my vision to other people is a difficult aspect of what I do.

N-L: How have you dealt with that?
PM: I tend to work with people with whom I already have a relationship with. I like to people with people who I already know, already know what the situation is going to be. It's when you feel with people you don't know, you run into difficulties in communication.
N-L: What composer would you say your work most mirrors?

PM: I would like the answer to be Anton Webern. Whether or not that is true is for others to decide.

N-L: Is there a reason why you have enjoyed teaching Beethoven string quartets over the years?
PM: I don't think there is any other literature that so maps out the composer's whole career. You can just tell from any one of his quartets where he is and how it's going to play out in his symphonies and in his piano sonatas. It's just a fascinating portrait of the composer.

N-L: What advice do you have for aspiring composers and/or musicians?
PM: Study, study, study. I really think the intellectual side of music pursuits is too often downplayed and you can learn a lot by studying scores in an atmosphere where you can share your insights with other students, guided by a professor. It is integral to creating new music as a composer and as a musician.

N-L: What new acts in the classical or popular spheres today do you find the most promising?
PM: Among performers, the Alarm Will Sound, which is based in New York. We actually have one of the members, Courtney Orlando, who works at Peabody. She's amazing. She's a violinist and teaches ear training. They're very promising, in part because of their ability to crossover. They're constantly striving to do new things, and not just to broaden the audience, which sounds kind of cheap, but to just challenge themselves and take themselves to places beyond any musical ensemble.
In the pop sphere, I'm very encouraged by Rilo Kiley, Arctic Monkeys and Spoon. It's not just the way they perform, not just the way they write songs, but the way they present themselves and the way they mirror what's going on in society at any given time.

N-L: What values do you look at differently when considering popular music?
PM: I'm not always thinking about development of musical ideas and harmony or the guitar playing. I'm sort of taking this gestalt whole of the entire package. How they present themselves, the way they perform songs, the differences in how they perform live and in way they record.

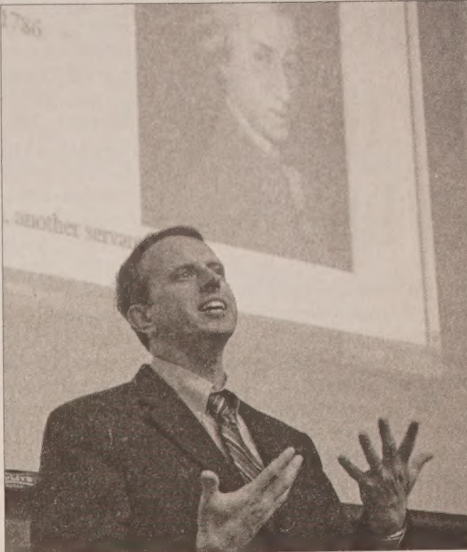
N-L: Where would you classify Beethoven?
PM: Beethoven is an unusual case; in that, psychologically, he was kind of a loner and then there was the impediment of his hearing, which made him shun social situations. He really tried to avoid being around people because he couldn't hear them. I really admire composers, who in their late years are still doing new and innovative things. In this category, I would put Webern, Stravinsky and even Pierre Boulez. I think for them it gets more interesting as they write more.

N-L: What types of new innovations?
PM: It's hard to say. When you're a rock and roll act, you're in a pretty tight box. We think of them as being wild and crazy,

but the style that accompanies being a rock act is very limiting. It's hard to chip away at that and still be considered a rock act. Sometimes that involves instrumentation, which was certainly the case in the '60s and '70s where we saw new instruments added to rock. But, more often, it involves new ways of presenting the music in the way it is sung or the way it's recorded.

N-L: How do you see the individualization of music morphing the music industry?
PM: I think it's good. I remember when I was in college, reading *Future Shock*, by Alvin Toffler, and one of the points he made was that instead of being this homogenous future where everyone wore gray suits and

did the same thing, technology would make choices so varied that everyone could do what they want, and I think that has really played out in my lifetime, in music. We're getting increasingly sort of niche acts that have very small audiences, but can make a living doing it.



CONOR KEVITT/NEWS-LETTER PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Rock music professor Paul Mathews conducts class where discussions range from pop music to classical composition.

SECURITY ALERTS

- March 1, 2:50 a.m.: At the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, an undergraduate from Towson University claims that he had been hit and kicked by two males at a party held by the fraternity. The victim didn't seek medical attention for minor injuries. Further investigation is ongoing.
- Feb. 29, between 8:20 a.m. and 8:35 a.m.: The vent window in a car parked on East 28th Street was broken. The Baltimore police responded and further investigation is continuing.
- Between Feb. 29 and March 1, 11:10 a.m.: The rear hatchback window of an undergraduate's car was broken with a rock. Clothing and a blanket were taken from the car parked on East 30th Street. The Baltimore police responded and an investigation is continuing.
- March 1, between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.: From the parked car for a Peabody student, a radar detector, CD player and CDs were removed. There was no sign of forced entry.
- March 2, between 1:30 a.m. and 2:00 a.m.: At P.J.'s Pub, a graduate student's unattended coat was taken. In the coat there was a wallet and a cell phone. The wallet contained a J-Card, which had its funds cancelled. An investigation is ongoing.
- March 2, between 10:50 a.m. and 11:37 a.m.: The side window in a car parked on the 3500 block of North Charles Street was broken. The Baltimore police responded and an investigation is continuing.



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Kinzer concerned by threat of Iran war

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
become more informed about relations with Iran and to approach these issues through an objective, rational mentality.

He also encouraged audience members to sign a petition against war on Iran that will be submitted to Congress.

At the end of the seminar, one enthusiastic audience member sparked lively conversation with a question: "What right does the United States have to act on imperial grounds and invade any sovereign nation and to tell others how they should do business?"

The current imperialistic mentality of the United States, Kinzer said in response, is a result of policymakers who tried to fulfill their personal agendas while unconsciously ignoring the real interests of the nation.

Empire-building, Kinzer argued, "sometimes tends to generate a 'feel-good' moment for certain individuals."

"Our first talk with the Iranians will be hard. Negotiations are challenging, but peace can only be won with hard work and consistent efforts," SAIS graduate Peter Parsy said.

Although the attendance of Wednesday night's seminar could barely fill the seats of Shriver Hall, most audience members listened to the speakers intently.

The tour is also promoting the House of Representatives Bill H.R. 5056, known as the Iran Diplomatic Accountability Act of 2008.

Known for his award-winning book *All the Shah's Men*, Kinzer was a correspondent for 20 years and has covered more than 50 countries around the world.

Student Life Commission proposes changes to SAC funding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
way funding works for the administrators and students involved," Loveall said.

The money allocated to the Student Activities Commission (SAC) — the board that currently doles out money — would be handed over to a new funding board that would give it to student groups in blocks.

The new system would have student groups relocate 15 percent of their funding into a contingency account, which would contain money groups may need to fund events or programs that may arise over the course of the year and that have not been accounted for in the annual budget.

Each of the eight groups' categories would set up councils that control a portion of their contingency account.

"This will encourage a better allocation of money," president of Student Council Scott Bierbryer said. As president, Bierbryer sits on the Student Life Commission and on the SAC executive board.

The Student Life Commission believes a category controlled contingency fund would promote groups of the same category to work together to spend their money more efficiently.

Instead of applying to the SAC, groups would appeal to a council of similar groups to receive unplanned funds.

The hope is for groups to consolidate potentially similar events and programs to improve turnout and decrease overall expenses.

Sports groups already function on a similar system. The success of this system was the inspiration for this proposed restructuring, according to Mink.

Jeffrey Orthober, treasurer of the JHU band, said this new system would have benefits for his student group.

"It would be easier, definitely. Each year, we have to explain we need new timpani mallets to a board that doesn't know what timpani mallets are," he said. Orthober felt a performing arts

council would be more understanding of the band's particular needs and be more willing to provide them with contingency funds for things like mallets, reeds and instrument repairs.

The institution of categorized councils would eliminate the need for category liaisons to the funding board, according to Austin Nelson, treasurer of Student Council and chairman of the SAC executive board. Currently, there are eight liaisons to the board, who serve as advocates for the groups of their categories.

Two current liaisons declined to comment.

The new funding committee, which would replace the SAC, would be an elected board, though the details of its membership still need to be decided.

"It could come from Student Council senators, the committee of finance, we don't know," Nelson said.

The new board would provide all recognized student groups with block funding. Currently, there are two classes of SAC groups. Class-A groups receive a block fund at the start of the academic year based on their annual budgets. These groups may also apply for contingency funds as the year progresses. Class-B groups do not draw up an annual budget and are funded by appeals for contingency money.

The new system would effectively make all groups Class-A groups.

"Instead of funding groups in a detailed way, there will be a block funding method," Bierbryer said. "Groups will no longer need to come in every week and apply for funding."

Under the proposed system, Class-A groups would receive annual funding as usual, while Class-B groups would receive



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Hopkins Band, like all other SAC groups, will be affected if proposed changes to the funding system are approved.

funding based on their spending histories.

The new committee would average these groups' funds from the past three years and provide an equivalent block.

"The only real reason a group is Class-B is because it doesn't submit an annual budget," Nelson said.

Nelson said this method of historical funding means groups that do not submit budgets will receive the money they have typically required without the hassle

of appealing to the SAC board on a weekly basis.

"Block funding doesn't mean groups need to change," he said. Bierbryer hopes this model would simplify the funding process.

As it stands, if a group applies for contingency funds and chooses to relocate those funds, they must reapply with the

SAC.

"If, for example, a speaker cancels and your group wants to bring a different speaker, you have to resubmit your funding application. It's three hours of paperwork," Bierbryer said.

Under the proposed model, groups would no longer need to apply for funding on a weekly basis, but nor would they be limited to their blocks or contingency funds.

Nelson said the funding board would likely be open to appeals for greater block funds if a group proves its historical spending does not reflect its current needs.

Both Bierbryer and Nelson said reforming the system would give groups more freedom in their spending.

"We researched this new system in the fall, and we are still researching," Bierbryer said.

"We will be surveying all the student groups to make sure this is in their best interests. We want to do what is best for the student groups."

"A lot of this still needs to be worked out," Nelson said.

Susan Boswell, dean of student life, recommended the student

council bring in a consultant to assist them in restructuring the funding model.

"If this is approved, we will be refining the system over the summer," Bierbryer said.

**We will begin
surveying all the
student groups to
make sure this is in
their best interests.**

— SCOTT BIERBRYER,
STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESIDENT

Chemical spill injures two Hopkins grad students

Although initially hospitalized,
both students were
discharged by late last night

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
on the scene that the University had done an excellent job," he said.

Security is responsible for responding to the incident, securing the scene and awaiting the arrival of firefighters and hazardous materials teams.

"Essentially once the fire department arrives [security] gives up control of the scene," O'Shea said.

A spokesperson for the fire department could not be reached late Wednesday night.

Fire department spokesman Roman Clark told the Associated Press that three drops of acid were spilled on the floor but were neutralized by their hazardous materials team.

Maryland Hall was evacuated on Feb. 19 after a container of acid was spilled. Baltimore City firefighters and hazardous material crews responded and cleaned the spill.

Maryland Hall is home to the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department, as well as the Department of the Materials Science and Engineering.

The rumors?

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"I love Carma's cafe. They have bottomless cups of fresh-brewed coffee, delicious ... paninis, salads and cookies, and the greatest service from Carma herself. This is, by far, my favorite coffee shop in Baltimore."

— Beth, graduate student, JHU

Hands down the
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— Cliff, junior, JHU

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"I went inside and saw a stack of muffulettas. It was actually better than the sandwich I had in New Orleans, the muffuletta's home turf."

"Easily the best food in Charles Village... this little shop will keep you eating well."

— John, senior, JHU



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All true.

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 28 issue of the *News-Letter*, on page A1, the article entitled "HEAT advocates for Global Warming Bill" should have been credited to Sarah Grant, not Marie Cushing.

In that same issue, on page B3 in the caption for the article "Spinning into Butter churns out a good show," the caption incorrectly names Todd Pearthree. It is Michael O'Connell in the photograph.

In the Lacrosse Guide, on page 14, the article "Meet the freshmen: new on the field this weekend" incorrectly states Matt Dolente's hometown as Phoenix, Ariz. He is from Pheonixville, Pa.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Announcing a new prize opportunity for Johns Hopkins University Full-time undergraduates with Junior or Senior status.

The Christopher B. Elser Prizes

The Christopher B. Elser Prizes were established by family and friends of the Elser family as a memorial to the life of Christopher B. Elser, a member of the JHU Class of 2007. It is presented to a junior or senior reflecting the following attributes:

*

Demonstration of active participation and commitment to community service

*

A record of active participation and leadership in campus life and campus activities.

*

A demonstrated passion for athletics

*

Academic achievement

Nominations for the Christopher B. Elser Prizes may be submitted by JHU Faculty, Staff and Students including self nominations. All nominations must be received by March 14, 2008.

The Christopher B. Elser Prizes consist of up to two monetary awards and will be presented at the JHU Student Leadership Awards program in the Spring semester of each academic year.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from http://web.jhu.edu/studentprograms/OSI/leadership_awards or can be picked up in the Office of the Dean of Student Life, Suite 102, Levering Hall.

Baltimore Collegetown Night

Baltimore Orioles vs. Seattle Mariners

Friday, April 4, 2008

7:05 PM, Oriole Park at Camden Yards

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Tickets are non-refundable.

Need a ride? The Baltimore Collegetown Shuttle picks up outside of MSE Library at 6:03 and 6:23 and drops off at the Inner Harbor.

NEWS & FEATURES

Students click in class with remotes

By ALEXANDRA BYER
For The News-Letter

There is a widespread phenomenon among students unwilling to go to another early lecture to trade days of going to class with their friends: One friend might go to class on Tuesday, while the other attends on Thursday.

However, the days of alternating attendance in large lecture classes is gone due to Hopkins's increased use of electronic clicker devices.

Parts of a larger system of wired classrooms, these devices, called "Classroom Performance Systems," are small remotes which allow students to answer questions in class.

Once the professor designates a question as a "clicker question," students can then punch their answers into their clickers.

Through a receiver system that the professor has on his desk at the front of the class, he or she collects all the answers from the students.

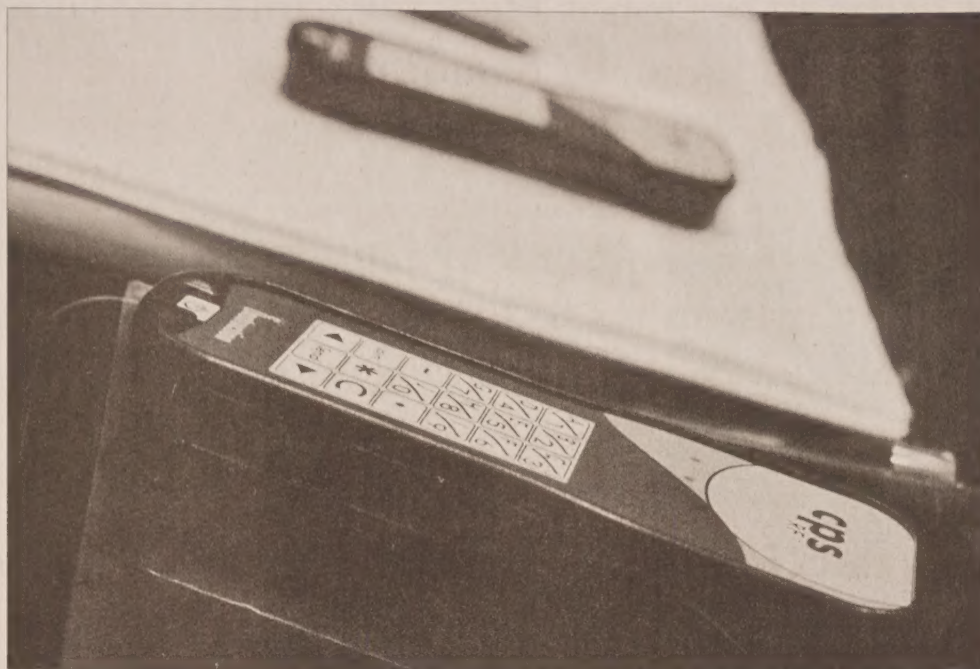
Each clicker has a unique serial number that is registered online when the students buy the clicker at the school store, keeping students' answers anonymous to everyone except the professor.

Though the process seems simple enough, there has been recent debate over the small clickers and CPS program.

When students answer these questions, a professor automatically knows if students are in attendance.

But the Hopkins departments which use the program stress that attendance is not their primary purpose.

The main use of the clicker sys-



RAMON LEE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Classroom Performance System allows for increased interaction between professors and students in large lecture classes.

tem is to "increase interaction between professors and students," said Bruce Barnett, a physics and astronomy professor.

But since these classes are upwards of 200 students, the professor has no way of knowing if a student is actually at the class or not. The professor would only see that a student is answering the questions — but not who exactly is answering the questions. Effectively, this is cheating and is one of the program's downfalls.

In some classes, if students answer 75 percent of the questions, they receive full attendance credit.

But, "if kids want to go to class then they will go to class — you don't need [an electronic] system to force students to go," freshman Daksh Malhotra said. Malhotra is among the many students who use the CPS system in physics class.

Students who continue to attend class are forced to pay attention to the lecturer so that when asked a multiple-choice question, students can answer the question to the best of their ability.

"To me, the clickers seem to have two positive immediate effects. Firstly, more kids end up in

class than there may be without them and secondly, it keeps students engaged and checks their knowledge on what the professor has done in class," freshman Max Trumble said.

The CPS program was created by Darrell Ward, who strived to create an audience response system in which students could openly answer questions while remaining anonymous to everyone else in the class. In this way, Ward's system has succeeded.

Only the professor knows students' answers, a key advantage to the use of CPS, especially in competitive classes where students may be more reluctant to raise their hands, and risk possibly being wrong in front of 200 other students.

Classes can also study the data once students punch in their answers because the program runs in real time.

A graph appears on the projector of how many students chose answers A, B, C, D or E.

The class can then analyze each answer and the professor can explain the difference between the right and wrong answers.

Happy with the system's capability of showing what questions

students can and cannot comprehend, Barnett said, "[The system is] so the professor knows what students understand and don't understand.

Barnett has never lost any data and does not know of any colleagues who have had problems with using CPS.

While hundreds of colleges across the country use the CPS program with satisfied results, occasionally the system malfunctions.

The University of Kansas experienced such a failure recently when almost 1,000 students' grades in a biology class miraculously disappeared — every student's grade showed up as an A+.

But at Hopkins the program is used only for answering multiple-choice questions in class and not for exams so the risk of this type of malfunction is minor.

There is still an imminent chance of malfunction, which could hurt Hopkins students' attendance report and effectively their grades. Yet most professors still seem confident that the system will hold up its reputation.

State looks to ban trans fats, Dining already has

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
Trans Fat," is co-sponsored by Maryland delegates James Hubbard and Peter Hammen. If passed, it will establish a task force to study the banning of trans-fat in the state. A similar bill will take effect in July 2008 in New York City.

While he is unsure of the bill's chances of being passed in Maryland, Matthew Crenson, a professor of political science at Hopkins, feels that the bill's larger "impact in this area is the informal pressure on the food industry to label prod-

ucts as having trans fats or not. There is a small minority who push for things like this."

Many popular restaurants which Hopkins students frequent, such as Chipotle and Bert's, have not used trans fats for over five years. While some restaurants have not advertised as being trans fat-free, others, such as Chipotle, promote their use of the best quality foods.

For restaurants, the main issue in becoming trans fat-free is the cost of replacing essential ingredients — butter and vegetable oil, for instance — with trans fat-free products like soy oil.

"What people don't know realize, is that it's not just one or two things; we have to change our entire menu," said Petro Kumar, the manager of Tamber's. Kumar cited the example of the cost of French fries originally priced at \$1.25 changing to \$1.85 or even \$1.95 because "it costs more for trans fat-free ingredients."

Other restaurants try to reduce costs elsewhere to ensure their ability to bring to their clients the

highest quality food at the most convenient price.

"We try to minimize the cost by being efficient and reducing the amount produced," said Shea Allen Walters, the manager at Chipotle.

Another problem is the short amount of time that restaurants have to change their menus, since the bill, if passed, will be enacted on July 1, 2008. Restaurants in New York City have similar worries as their deadline approaches.

"Trans fats are made from satu-

rated fats that undergo the

chemical process of hydrogenation (the adding of hydrogen atoms to the fatty acids)," wrote

Roger Blumenthal, of the Johns Hopkins Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease, in his article "Trans

Fats: What You Need to Know." They are an artificially made material that is used to solidify liquid

fats. Common

examples include butter, margarine and fried foods. Studies have shown that trans-fats increases bad cholesterol levels, the risk of heart disease and risk of diabetes.

Ultimately, the choice to eat foods laden with trans fats is up to the consumer.

"The bottom line is that we all should strive to eat more fruits, vegetables, fiber and whole grains and fewer unhealthy desserts and snacks," Blumenthal said.

The proposed bill has already had a hearing on the House side and is currently awaiting a voting session before it will move forward.

—Additional reporting done by Lauren McGrath

We all should strive to eat more fruits, vegetables, fiber and whole grains and fewer unhealthy desserts and snacks.

— ROGER BLUMENTHAL, DIRECTOR OF THE CICCARONE CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF HEART DISEASE

CKP

the campus kitchens project

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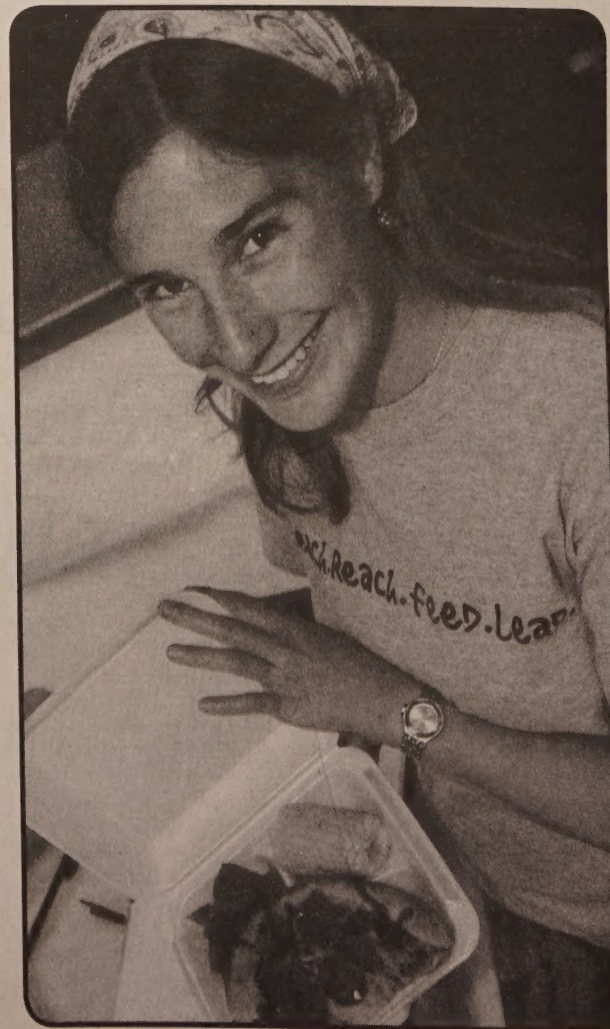
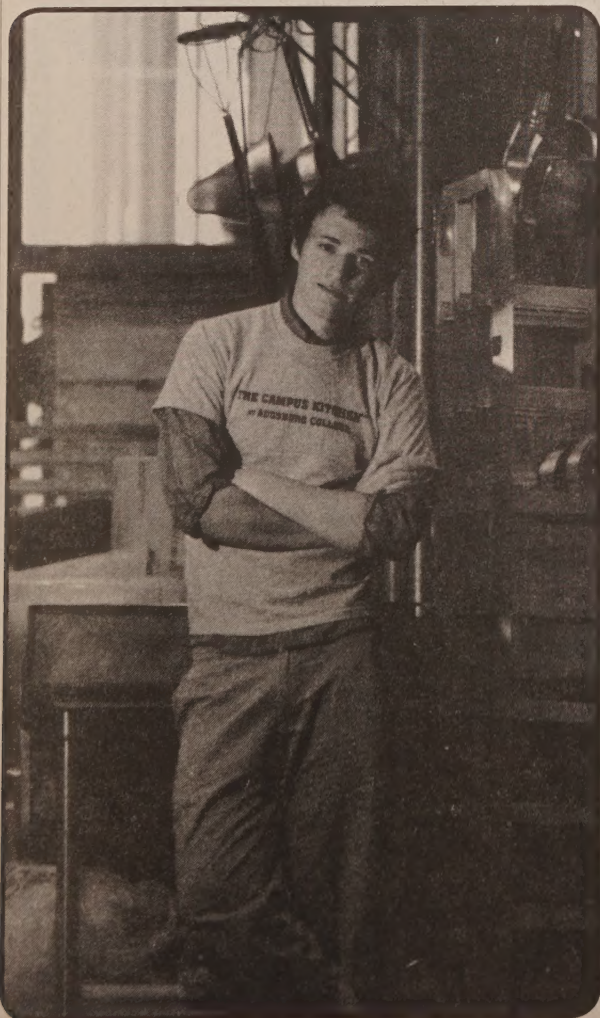
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NEWS & FEATURES

News in Brief

Carey School dean named to board for business education

Yash Gupta, the inaugural dean of the Carey Business School, has been elected to the board of directors of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The AACSB is the primary organization that determines the accreditation status of business schools and programs all over the world.

Gupta's three-year term will begin on July 1 of this year. The AACSB is comprised of more than 1,100 businesses, schools and other organizations from 70 countries.

Founded in 1916 for the advancement of business education, the AACSB is now the longest-serving and largest accrediting association for business and accounting education.

Gupta has served as dean of Hopkins's Carey Business School since Jan. 1. Prior to his current position, he was the dean of the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business from 2004 to 2006.

He also served as dean of the University of Washington Business School from 1999 to 2004, and he headed the College of Business and Administration at the University of Colorado at Denver from 1992 to 1999.

Stock program improves middle schoolers' grades

The Hopkins Center for Social Organization of Schools has found that students participating in a stock investment program outperformed other students in several academic areas.

The sixth- and seventh-grade students from Baltimore and Washington, D.C. learned strategies for earning, saving and investing money in the Stocks in the Future program.

In tests against control groups of students, seventh-graders in the program scored 31 percent higher in reading, vocabulary and math, and sixth-graders scored 18 percent higher in reading comprehension and math.

The Stock in the Future program was developed by the Center for Social Organization of Schools to provide incentives to students to improve their performance in school. The curriculum was offered to 400 students.

Under the program, students with improving grades and excellent attendance earn "SIF dollars" with which they can buy publicly traded stocks that they will receive upon graduating from high school and turning 18.

Now that the program's effectiveness has been proven through the results of this trial, the Center plans to implement it throughout the region in the future.

Engineering Professor Robert Kraichnan dies at age 80

Robert H. Kraichnan, professor of mechanical engineering, died on Feb. 26 in Santa Fe, N.M. at the age of 80. Kraichnan had worked at Hopkins in the Whiting School of Engineering since 2003.

He earned his Ph.D. in theoretical physics at MIT, completing the program in 1949. He then served as Albert Einstein's assistant at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study until 1950.

Starting in the mid-1950s, Kraichnan focused his research on fluid mechanical turbulence, leading him to be dubbed by many as the father of modern turbulence theory.

He held faculty positions at Columbia and New York Universities during the '50s, and in 1962, he became self-employed. He did consultant work for several government agencies and received some highly sought-after grants.

He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Dirac Medal, the APS Onsager Prize and the APS Fluid Dynamics Prize.

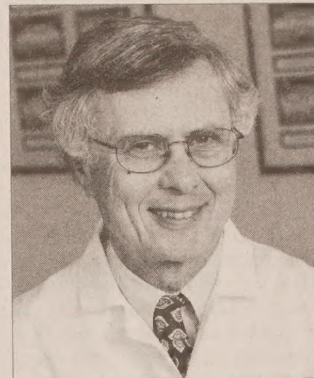
Kraichnan is survived by his wife, artist and photographer Judy Moore-Kraichnan; his former wife, Carol Gebhardt; his son and one granddaughter.

JHU physician-in-chief receives Diversity Award

Cardiologist and Hopkins Hospital physician-in-chief Myron Weisfeldt was named the second-ever recipient of the Diversity Award from the Association of Professors of Medicine. Since taking his post as head of the Department of Medicine six years ago, Weisfeldt has developed a detailed program to increase diversity in Hopkins medicine.

After the program's implementation, the proportion of minority medical residents and fellows in the department has increased dramatically, from 8 percent in 2001 to 23 percent in 2006. Additionally, the numbers of minority assistant professors have nearly doubled.

The gains made by the program are so significant that in 2005, Hispanic Business magazine named Hopkins the second-



COURTESY OF KEITH WELLER
Hopkins's Myron Weisfeldt received a national award for diversity outreach.

best place for Hispanics to study medicine (Stanford University took first place). Weisfeldt's program includes a variety of initiatives, including a diversity council that has already employed many changes and a regular survey that assesses the attitudes and opinions of minority staff and faculty. More active recruitment of minorities and women is also a key part of the program.

Advertisements targeting minority medical students brought a host of applicants to Hopkins. Each applicant was assigned a staff member by the diversity council to act as an advocate and guide during the interview process.

Other College News

Princeton starts study abroad program for gap-year freshmen

A new study abroad program at Princeton University will allow newly admitted students to spend a year abroad before entering college. Development of the program comes as a response to increased numbers of college students taking a "gap year" after graduating from high school.

The University hopes to begin the program in 2009 and offer it at first to a small number of students. Eventually, however, the school intends to involve at least 10 percent of admitted students each year. Princeton does not plan to charge tuition for those who go abroad, and financial aid will be offered to students who need it. A committee consisting of faculty and staff members and students will determine practical matters of the program such as cost, legal issues and the selection process of students.

Though some companies have begun to work with pre-college students to assist them in finding work or travel prospects abroad, Princeton is the first university to develop a formal program to allow these students such opportunity. Although many Hopkins students take a year off before college, the University has no plans to create a similar program.

Women-only gym hours at Harvard causes controversy

Harvard University has recently instated a new policy allowing only women to use a campus gym for several hours during the week. The implementation of this new practice was instigated by a group of female Muslim students who said they found working out in the presence of men offensive to their sense of modesty.

Several students presented their problem to the University with the support of the Harvard College Women's Center, and the policy is now being employed on a trial basis.

Six of the 70 hours of operation of one campus recreation center, the least-used exercise facility on campus, have been set aside as women-only hours.

These special hours allow Muslim women, whose religious dress codes require them to cover their hair and most of their skin while in public, to dress more appropriately during exercise. While some find the policy to be only a minor inconvenience, others are outraged, including some female students who regard the policy as sexist.

— All briefs by Alex Vockroth, Copy Editor



COURTESY OF MARY RIDER
Hopkins student Mary Rider used part of her gap year to visit the Strait of Gibraltar.

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SALES BY MCWILLIAMS GALLARD.

STRUEVER BROS. ECCLES & ROUSE
Transforming America's Cities

Council endeavors to improve outreach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
Bierbryer said administrators did not believe there was an issue with communication but recognized that there must be problems if the Council felt strong enough to pass a resolution.

"Relationships can always be improved with communication being the first step," Boswell said.

"We understand to a certain degree that they are incredibly busy, but it is important for them to make time to meet with us. We are the representatives of the student body," freshman class President Daniel Teran said.

"I have made myself available to meet with members of Student Council and will continue to do so," Boswell said.

Council members hope to set up consistent meetings with the administration so they can provide input with decisions such as the schedule change or the decision to revoke Greek housing exemptions for sophomores.

"Right now we are in the stage of setting up the concrete details of what we need. Administrators have been very receptive as far as meetings go. We'll see what happens in the next few weeks," Bierbryer said.

This new relationship with the University may be tested by the Council's decision to contest the revoking of the Greek housing exemption.

With the construction and upgrading of housing, amenities and security, Boswell said administrators felt the Greek housing exemption could no longer be considered an alternative to University housing.

"The logic behind removing Greek exemption is flawed," Bierbryer said. "If the University builds or purchases more housing, that same argument could be used for mandatory junior and senior housing. We need to make sure we take care of this now before it becomes a bigger issue," Bierbryer added.

When asked if the University would reconsider the decision to revoke the Greek housing ex-

emption, Boswell said, "The decision to eliminate the Greek housing exemption has been extended for 18 months. There will be no Greek exemption for sophomores as of fall 2009."

Boswell has previously stated the University has no plans to make housing mandatory for juniors.

"By eliminating Greek housing exemption, it's a direct assault on the Greek system," said Teran, who is a pledge at Phi Kappa Psi.

While the exemption will directly affect Alpha Delta Phi (Wawa) and Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike), which have larger houses, Bierbryer argued that smaller fraternities will also be affected.

"It prevents Phi Psi or Sig Ep from purchasing larger housing on North Charles in the future. We don't want to see an important part of the Hopkins social experience go away," he said.

The Council plans to survey members of sororities and fraternities for their views on the exemption and how much it costs for them to live in the Greek housing.

"We also want to show how much these groups contribute through campus life, including involvement in leadership positions," Bierbryer said.

Some have expressed concern over the Council focusing on an issue that only directly impacts fraternity members. Four out of five members of the Council's Executive Board are fraternity members.

Bierbryer, a member of Wawa, said the Council would listen to student opinion on the issue.

"If students for the most part generally do not oppose this, then by all means we will not address the issue," he said.

The Council would be open to addressing the issue of high housing costs in the future.

"I feel that it is the place of the Student Council to explore the possible disparities between off and on campus housing. It has been a popular concern among student," Teran said.

A third of the student body

responded to a Council survey, which members plan to use both as a reference point for debates with the administration and a guideline for further action.

Out of the 1,519 that participated in the Your Voice Polling Campaign, 1,481 completed the survey. Sixty percent of respondents did not like the new scheduling system.

"The survey made clear a lot of what students have been feeling but the administration would not take Student Council's word for it," Teran said.

Boswell was unwilling to comment on issues raised by the survey because she had not seen the results.

When asked in an open response question for their views on the Council, a majority of students said they had no idea who is on the council or what they do.

"We were able to see our own faults and shortcomings. We aren't communicating effectively," Teran said.

"After so many years of ineffectiveness its tough to advertise what we can do for the student body," Bierbryer said.

Council members feel that bringing more large-scale programming to Homewood beyond events at Spring Fair would make students feel more satisfied about campus life.

"A lot of struggles we had in the first semester were internal. Now once we get support from the administration and get our contacts together, we can actually focus on reaching out to students," Bierbryer said.

Freshmen responded the most, with 471 student answers, followed by 417 sophomores, 332 seniors and 299 juniors.

Survey coordinator and newly appointed sophomore class Vice President Marc Perkins said he came into office with this idea.

"We want to do more polling to find out what students care about and then have numbers that we can then take to the administration to back up our arguments," he said.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The College Republicans debated their Democratic rivals at Tuesday's annual event sponsored by the Foreign Affairs Symposium.

JHU political party groups go head-to-head

By **CHLOE MARK**

News-Letter Staff Writer

In the midst of primary fever, the battle lines were drawn as the College Democrats and Republicans took the stage in order to debate the primaries' main issues.

As part of the Foreign Affairs Symposium, around 70 students gathered in the Glass Pavilion to watch College Republican members Evan Lazerowitz, Daniel Coluacurcio and Christopher Connelly debate College Democrats Jack Berger, Daniel Barash and Conor Foley.

Political science professor Mark Blyth mediated the debate that touched on topics like Iraq, foreign policy, health care, education, and green energy.

Each panel opened with a general statement about its party's policy. The Democrats pointed to the 47 million uninsured, the growing poverty gap, unending war in Iraq and America's dwindling status in the international community as just some of the failings of the current administration.

The Democrats claimed that their party offered presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton — carefully not choosing sides between the nominees — who would restore political leadership with bold new ideas by leaving Iraq behind, investigating health care and revitalizing the economy.

The Republicans were quick to separate their party from the controversial leadership of President Bush, with a general party line of national security, low taxes, small government and individual choice.

However disastrous Iraq might be, the Republicans argued, leaving the country could only make things worse; national security is perhaps the most important job of a president, and that the Republican nominee, John McCain, was far better suited for the job than anyone being presented by the Democrats.

Throughout the debate, many poignant questions about issues ranging from the correct policy to pursue in Iraq to the failing concept of the "American Dream"

were asked, but these, unfortunately, were rarely answered.

Instead, responses entailed more of a general discussion of party policy on larger issues like education and health care rather than what could have been an enlightening discussion of party specifics.

At times the debate devolved into a game of "he said she said," but interesting points were made about fair- vs. free-trade policy and affirmative action. The only thing the Democrats and the Republicans agreed upon throughout the entire evening was how to address the depreciation of the American dollar.

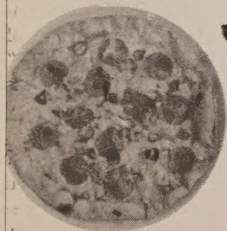
Both sides pointed to our failing health care and education systems, but like their candidates none of them had a solution. Democrats seemed to advocate the instigation of universal health care, but neglected the real political obstacles which bar this system from existing. Republicans advocated more of the same by demanding increased tax cuts and the cutting of the inefficient costs of bureaucracy.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Brasserie Tatin is a surprising letdown

Last month on a rainy Friday evening, I met a friend for what we hoped would be an enjoyable culinary adventure after a hyper-intense week of the Hopkins grind. Our original destination was France, but after a quick Internet search showed how pricey round-trip tickets to Paris are, we were convinced to pursue this adventure locally.

We settled on Brasserie Tatin, which is the closest French restaurant to Hopkins, a mere two blocks away from Homewood Field.

My first impression of the restaurant was, "Oh crap, we are severely underdressed." The large and spacious dining room was decorated with modern teals and oranges, glass-flecked black marble tables and large mirrors — a harsh contrast to the jeans and T-shirts our hectic week had driven us to.

Fortunately, we were not shunned and instead were seated and presented with a deliciously warm and toasty bread basket.



SHAWN FU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Despite favorable hear-say, cuisine at Brasserie Tatin failed to meet expectations.

Unfortunately, baguette and butter was to be the highlight of the meal.

We started with the parfait de foies, which was described on the menu as "a creamy mousse of quail, duck and chicken served with warm brioche, grape and frisée salad." What we got were four slices of meat that were the same color as a dissected sheep brain. On the side there was a clump of pale green frisée with half slices of run-of-the-mill purple grapes.

Besides its unappetizing presentation, the flavors were also sub par — sweet cream flavor with essence of mystery meat.

Grace Fried Guest Column

Getting a spring break body: do's and don'ts

Slipping into a bikini or board shorts that have been stored away for the past six months may be the last thing on your mind while you're busy with midterms and finalizing your spring break plans, but if you're one of the lucky ones you'll be hitting the beach before you know it.

Unfortunately, it's a little too late to decide to get ripped or drop 10 pounds safely. The good news is that two weeks is enough time to actually see and feel a difference in your energy levels, appearance and overall self-confidence.

Don't: Drastically cut calories or skip meals.

Do: Cut 250 calories per day from your normal diet. This could be done by skipping dessert, ditching that Starbucks frappuccino or taking fewer bites at every meal. Be sure to eat five or six small meals each day to keep your blood sugar levels steady and avoid overeating.

Don't: Exercise your body into exhaustion.

Do: Aim to exercise for at least 30 minutes to an hour each day. Brisk walking for just 30 minutes can burn 200 to 350 calories.

By burning 250 calories in addition to decreasing your average caloric intake by 250 calories can help you achieve a 500 calorie deficit per day each day. That equals 3,500 calories, or one pound, lost each week.

Don't: Do the same workout every day.

Do: If you do what you always do, you will look how you always look. It's best to add variety to your workouts so your body is forced to adapt. Be sure to mix up easier aerobic workouts with interval training.

Over the course of a 30-minute exercise, work at a higher intensity for a short amount of time, followed by a short recovery period. This will keep your metabolism revved even after you leave the gym.

Do: Have fun! You deserve it.



Kelly Gonzalez Busy Bodies

tan.

Don't: Wear a bathing suit that doesn't fit correctly.

Do: Find a suit that flatters your shape and fits. As an ocean lifeguard during the summer months, I do a lot of people-watching.

There's nothing worse than when a top is too small and prohibits someone from doing fun beach activities, or a bottom that just doesn't cover what it should. Don't be that person!

Don't: Complain about your body.

Do: Appreciate your body and give thanks for your health. Focus on the positives like great legs or a perfect smile instead of pointing out the areas you would like to improve. No one is perfect, and the truth is you're probably the only one who notices these presumed flaws.

My companion for the evening swears he detected a hint of rubber band flavor.

The sweetness of the mousse was a poor pairing with the sweet toasted brioche on the side. On a positive note, the frisée salad garnish was enjoyably tangy.

Our taupé appetizer was followed by two entrees, each suffering from the same poor execution of promising ingredients and abysmal plating. We ordered the monkfish osso bucco and the venison special of the day.

The monkfish was the premier example of poor plating for night. It arrived as a cross section of fish, exposing white flesh, gray skin and a very prominent chunk of spine. Although this dish does traditionally call for an emphasis on the bone presentation, it was definitely more horror film than fine dining.

This lovely mass of fish and notochord was served on top of a pile of reconstituted, gritty mushrooms in an excessively sweet balsamic reduction. Presentation was abysmal — the brown, white and gray foods on the white plate were only mildly offset by a sprig of parsley.

The venison chop was large with prominent sear marks, yet perplexingly had none of the expected crispness. It was served with a tart blackberry sauce, spaetzle and several thick stalks of asparagus. None of the parts of the dish complemented another. They were just on the plate together.

We ordered a duck, caramelized onion and bleu cheese pizza to go for my roommate and passed on dessert, fearing another round of torment. The bill came and the damage was formidable.

With a total bill of over \$95 dollars, perhaps that trip to Paris for dinner would have been a better value.

We begrudgingly paid and made our escape back into the dreary rain. Back at my apartment we unveiled the pizza to my roommate after telling of our evening. The pizza was unsightly, and served with awkwardly large rounds of duck meat. The pungent bleu cheese fragrances our apartment for a couple of days. In terms of taste, the pizza wasn't bad, in an over-salted, greasy sort of way.

After recovering from my traumatic dining experience, I went online to try and understand what had happened. What I found was a general sentiment of good will and favor towards Brasserie Tatin.

In fact, some reviews were extremely complimentary, which I found absolutely shocking and contrary to my entire experience.

Perhaps it was a craze of the full moon or an unfortunate aligning of the planets that night, but as far as I'm concerned, this restaurateur has no clothes.

Grace Fried is a junior public health major from New York.

BRASSERIE TATIN

Location: 105 W. 39th St.
Phone: (443) 278-9110
Prices: Expensive
Hours: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday - Monday, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. Friday - Saturday, brunch 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sunday
Transportation: Five-minute walk, behind Broadview Apts.

Do it once more, for old time's sake

I can't tell you how to break up with your significant other. But I can tell you how not to do it. If you are over the age of 13, do not ever use instant messenger. Also never break up with someone mid-thrust. No evidence can completely dispel the potential for teeth in vaginas.

If you break up with someone over the phone, do not proceed to go over to their room to get laid one last time. Especially do not pretend to have changed your mind and re-dump them after you're done. Once you've said goodbye on the phone, you have had a 30-second period to call back and ask for sex.

You should not attempt to have breakup sex if it's clear the other person is far too emotionally distraught.

This means they'll definitely have sex with you, but because you didn't heed my advice they'll become clingier than a tick. And that's not Lyme disease you've contracted. You should also not have breakup sex if you're leaving your significant other for someone else that you've already started to sleep with. That's just greedy. Definitely don't have breakup sex if you're dumping them because they're lackluster in bed. That's just absurd.

You should have sex if you're breaking up in person, and the

emotions are running high but not to the psycho-point. Do keep in mind the following guidelines:

This is not an opportunity to try something new, not the time to try that thing she never wanted to do because you won't have to deal with the repercussions.

Don't cry, as much as you want to. Break-up sex is angry, and that's what makes it good. Get as much of that anger out — the betrayal, the embarrassment, the sickened feeling you get when you look at him now — all of those things can constructively be transformed into really rough sex.

Consider not kissing. If you didn't try that in your relationship, it can actually really add something to the experience. It makes angry sex twice as angry and detached, and that's exactly what you should be looking for in breakup sex.

Break-up sex is a great opportunity for girls to reach orgasm and leave. Don't be tricked by the endorphins that tell you to stay and cuddle. You don't have to wait for him to climax — you've

been catering to his needs long enough. Get up and leave. If you do both orgasm, leave soon afterwards. Do the thing you see in movies: Hang on to that happy feeling for 10 seconds, then start getting dressed. Leave. Even if you live together, leave.

As is the rule with any breakup, do not call the next day after breakup sex.

You'll sound six or seven times as desperate as you did during the breakup, and it should be clear that s/he isn't coming back. In case you weren't aware, the chances of them coming back increase if you are happy, single and carefree.

One last tip: Don't be afraid to go for the indie movie sex. Break up while sitting on opposite ends of a couch, and then have sex right there on said couch.

Don't worry about artfully tossing your clothes to the floor, that's for happy indie movie sex. Everyone should get a chance to have sex on a couch full of hate.



Grace Gwendolyn Henry That's What She Said

Embrace the diversity layering affords

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF
News & Features Editor

Confession: I don't check the weather when I wake up in the morning. I open my eyes each morning and one of two things happens. Either I get a wonderful glare of sun and I conclude "Hot!" or I wake up and have no glare and thereby conclude "Cold."

Instead of pulling up my blinds to assess the weather-preparedness of the patrons milling beneath my window on St. Paul Street, I then go with

Case in point: The other day I saw someone in MSE wearing three shirts. How did I know? Well, she sat down and peeled like an onion, one layer after another. But I couldn't tell; that's a perfect example of layering. Remember that the bottom most layer should be your warmest weather layer and it should fit you well. A tank top or a form-fitting T-shirt would work well. From there you can put other warmer items of clothing on top. A long-sleeved shirt or a blazer could come next, or wear a shawl or scarf if you're adventurous. Vests are also a very "in" trend right now. If you feel it's necessary to add a third layer, you can always put another long-sleeved shirt or even another T-shirt over the longer sleeves.

Bottoms are slightly trickier. Pants are self-explanatory. Jeans or corduroy pants are always fine; if for some reason those aren't warm enough, you can always wear long socks underneath. Be wary of the skirts and leggings combination. Yes, this fashion trend has become cliché, but if you're cold and unwilling to wear (or out of clean) pants, it's a valid option.

But please, please cover your butt! Leggings and a long shirt look good on a very slim minority of people and it won't make you feel any warmer. Consider dresses. They are a wonderful option to introduce some diversity into your wardrobe and are fairly versatile. For instance, a short-sleeved dress can be layered with a long-

sleeved shirt underneath.

Don't underestimate wearing a collared shirt underneath a short-sleeved dress; it instantly makes the outfit look more put together and classy. If it's too warm out — bam! Hop into the bathroom and take off the shirt. Wear leggings underneath to keep your legs warm. Also something I've done in the past is to use a scarf as a belt. It's easily adjustable and is not restricted to belt loops.

If you're reluctant to wear leggings, opaque tights are another option; they're colorful and surprisingly warm.

Speaking of colors, they're wonderful things. OK, funny story:

When I was a wee freshman, I used to wear neon colored fishnet tights. I wore them to this one particular class fairly often, and my TA would always make comments. Not inappropriate comments, but comments about how cheerful the neon purple was at 9 a.m. or how blinding the orange was against the snow-covered Upper Quad. Well, after months of the "wearing and commenting" cycle, I found out that my TA was colorblind and not able to fully appreciate my wardrobe. Sad.

The moral of this, my friends? Colors are good. Wear them. Even better, layer them. Have a blue-and-white-striped tank top underneath a green shirt while wearing brown leggings under your skirt.

The orgo midterm went poorly, but don't start dressing for the funeral yet. Black does not count as a color. It's a shade; use it to accent other colors.

A black belt among a brightly colored shirt or black shoes with a patterned dress would be fabulous.

But the best part of your wonderfully colored layers? If you're too hot, just take one off. Too cold? Put another back on.

You'll look good no matter incarnation of your outfit you're wearing. And if worst comes to worst, throw a sweatshirt over the entire thing.



HTTP://WWW.WHINYSTYLE.TV

If worn properly, leggings can look stylish and provide warmth.

my intuitive conclusions of sun = hot, no sun = cold.

I have frequently walked outside in 20-degree weather wearing the cute skirt and the boots with the fur only to realize, "Oh crap; I'm wrong again."

The logical answer, of course, would be to make <http://www.weather.com> part of my morning routine.

But instead, I generally try to devise outfits that can be useful for whatever it is that Mother Nature decides to throw at me.

The answer to this dilemma is, of course, to layer. But, you say to me, I already know how to layer! I wear my jeans and then I put on a sweatshirt and then a coat! I'm set! Well, sort of.

You see, you are correct in that wearing multiple kinds of clothing over one another is technically layering, but come on, by the time you're done, you look like a marshmallow. You're so much cuter than that.

The idea is to create tight-fitting layers and the reasons are two-fold.

First off, if the layers are closer to your body, they can retain body heat. Secondly, if the clothes hug your body then you won't look ridiculously puffy when you wear multiples.



HTTP://WWW.WHINYSTYLE.TV

Experimenting with colors and patterns can make a previously boring outfit pop.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Standing up for something

Last week, the Student Council stood up to the University and voiced their frustrations about the administration and its relationship with the student body in a formal letter to administration officials.

The importance of such a move should not be underestimated. The Council took this first step, pressuring the University to listen more attentively to the demands of students and their representative body.

University officials said that they had been unaware of any communication problems with the Council. Even if that is true, we hope that despite other signs of tension, their letter has driven the message home.

Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell has argued that a formal letter was not necessary. This page disagrees. After years of failing to acknowledge the Council's complaints, such visible action was necessary to motivate the University to improve communications; speaking up garners more attention than whispers.

The administration has promised to improve communications with the Council and that shows promise, but this page will wait to see results before congratulating the administration.

The fault does not rest totally on the shoulders of the administration, however. The main problem with the relationship between the Council and the University lies in the Council's relationship with the student body.

The Council is planning to increase polling of Hopkins undergraduates in order to find out what students care about. It's important to point out, however, that polling is not the best method of communication with students for understanding student sentiments. The first of these surveys was not scientific. It was distributed via e-mail and relied on students willingly responding, creating an inherent problem in producing accurate results.

This first poll however produced interesting results. Even though these students participated in this survey, a sizable number of respondents admitted that they could not name their representatives on the Council and are unaware of what the Council does. Though we can not faithfully rely on

these results, it highlights an important problem in Council-student relations.

The Council is not visible on campus. Despite the fact that the Council is supposed to be representative of the student body, so many students are ignorant of their representative body. That is exemplified not only in polling but in election turnout.

The Council can only influence the administration if it has power behind it. This power must come from the students. Without a mobilized student base, the Council remains an empty organization of a handful of students that the University can easily ignore.

It is indefensible that the University has not been listening to the Council, but at the same time, the Council is not very representative of its constituents. The Council must further integrate into the student body and get support for the policies it is pushing for.

Other campuses' representative bodies hold rallies, organize petitions and campaign for support from students. Our Student Council has done nothing of the sort and for that reason no one should be surprised when the University ignores the Council.

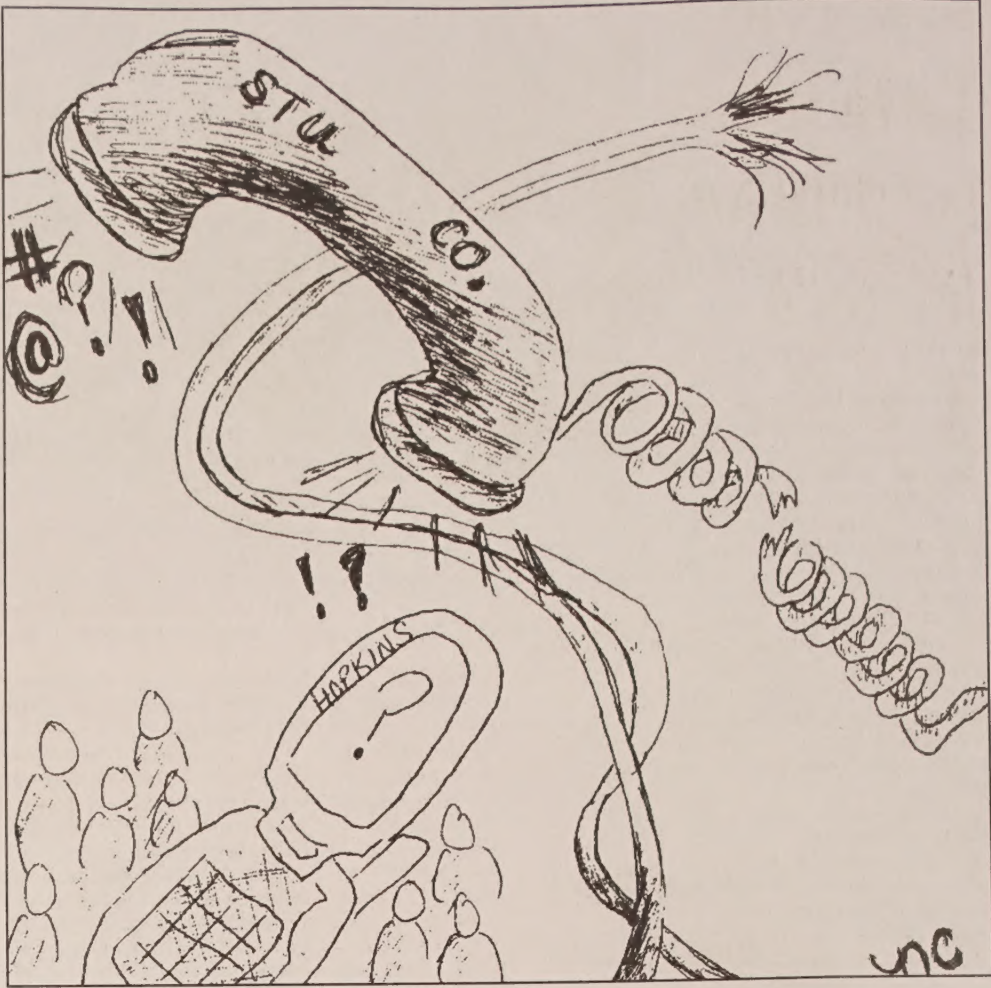
The Council has explained that the reason it has had a reduced presence on campus is because it is focusing on internal reforms; the members should remember it is possible to multi-task. The Council can hold meetings and mobilize students regarding critical issues at the same time. Otherwise the Council could waste a whole semester planning without accomplishing.

This page urges the Council to remember that when taking a stand, it is important to have something to stand on.

The first test of this potentially new relationship with the University may be the issue of the University revoking the Greek housing exemption for Hopkins sophomores.

The Council seeks to contest the University decision, but they will have to do more than just hold an unscientific poll. They will have to proactively mobilize students so that students and the Council can become a force to change the direction of this university.

Natachi Chukumerije



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hopkins students are more free off campus

In her piece on the worrisome state of free speech at Johns Hopkins University ("Set speech free at Hopkins," on Feb. 28), Chris-

tine McCurdy arrives at the only reasonable conclusion: repeal the civility code now.

If Hopkins truly believes that the University is "a forum for the free expression of ideas," as stated in the Undergraduate Student Conduct Code, it must begin to bring its policies in line with its pledges.

Until then, Hopkins's civility

code makes a mockery of its stated commitments to free speech, and both current and prospective students and faculty should proceed with extreme caution when speaking their mind on campus.

—Will Creeley, associate director of legal and public advocacy for FIRE, New York, N.Y.

Power of the purse

If student government has any power, it comes almost entirely from its ability to fund student groups. And as with any sort of power, it is best wielded openly, transparently and with full accountability. At Hopkins, that's not entirely the case.

The SAC decision-making process has long been a murky bureaucratic one whose myriad rules and regulations have made it nearly impossible to navigate. Those rules and regulations have been subject to very little oversight, because the SAC executive board is structurally insulated from both the student body and its representatives on the Student Council. It is neither accountable nor transparent.

Students depend on campus organizations to provide opportunities for entertainment (performing arts groups), advocacy (political or issue-oriented groups), cultural exchange (ethnic or religious groups) and volunteerism (community service organizations), among other things. And yet most have no idea how the funding process — which determines the groups that thrive or wither — works.

Some of this is mitigated by the liaison structure — a relic of the past that has survived the frequent revulsions of an otherwise transient Council. And while many of its features are archaic and ineffective, the liaison structure has, to a degree, mitigated the board's impenetrability.

As it exists now, the SAC executive board is composed of elected representatives — liaisons — from each student group category (e.g. sports, cultural, performing arts). These liaisons are chosen by the SAC general assembly, which is itself composed of representatives (one or two, depending on their "class") from each of the about 40 student organizations registered with the SAC.

The SAC funding mechanism is designed to represent student groups as directly and transparently as possible. But a few fundamental problems — persistent apathy, poor attendance, and lack of interest, to name a few — have debilitated the SAC and made it nearly impossible for that body to effectively represent its constituent groups.

Furthermore, it is accountable to no one. The SAC executive board is theoretically subject to the overarching authority of the Council, but as a matter of

practice this is not the case. In reality, the SAC is accountable to no one, not only because no one cares, but because no one really understands what it does.

A proposal by members of the Council aims to fix that by eliminating the SAC and replacing it with a committee of class senators acting directly under the authority of the Council. That proposal is a good start, but it requires some serious tweaking before it will be an effective remedy for what ails the SAC.

For one, the new proposal would erect a complicated and as of yet unspecified system for contingency funding, which is how student groups get the funds they need throughout the year. As the councilmembers have explained it, individual categories of student groups would establish their own respective funding mechanisms, to which the groups in those categories would appeal for contingency funding. So, if the Barnstormers need contingency funds for some added expense that comes up in the middle of the year, they would have to appeal to the rest of the performing arts groups to get it. This communitarian spirit strikes us as noble but ultimately just as vague and unsustainable as the current process.

What we would prefer is a solution that salvages the liaison structure of the current system while bringing it directly under the oversight of the Council. This seems both a streamlined and intuitive way of accomplishing at least two of the proposal's main objectives: It provides more oversight and accountability and encourages a spirit of cooperation among the groups themselves.

By retaining the liaison system, the Council would ensure that the board is composed of students who care about their constituent groups and have experience with the funding process. And relocating it under the oversight of the Council would not only make the process more transparent but return to the Council a fundamental mandate that carries with it a considerable well of legitimacy: the power of the purse.

We hope the Council will adjust its proposal to retain what good is left in the current system. Eradicating the liaison structure entirely, and placing funding authority in the hands of a few class senators, would remove power from those who truly should have it: student groups.

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and can not be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
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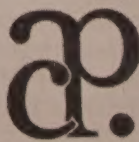
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Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the Thursday of publication. Subscriptions are available to our readers for \$35 per semester, \$70 for the full academic year. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody, Downtown Center), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 6,200.

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The battle over trans fat

Many restaurants that we frequent every day load their dishes with an artificial substance that increases the risk of heart disease and diabetes: Trans fat, a manufactured material used to solidify liquid fats.

The Maryland legislature has decided to establish a task force that will consider whether the state should ban trans fats in restaurants. While other cities, such as New York, have already imposed bans on trans fats, it is important for Maryland to assess for itself the appropriateness of such a measure. While we support such an investigation there are moderate and pragmatic measures to consider that will encourage healthy habits without having to resort to an absolute ban.

Consumers have the right to know what they buy and, more importantly, what's in the foods they eat. Therefore, we would support a measure that obligated restaurants and companies to label their products as containing trans fats. This disclosure must be visible and unambiguous. Menus would list which dishes have trans fats next to their descriptions, and products would have a clear mark indicating that they contain trans fat.

This would lead consumers to be more judicious and informed about what foods they choose to eat. In turn this would compel restaurants to become trans fat free in order to remain competitive.

However market forces alone will not lead to a healthy population. Not only are many people largely ignorant of the deleterious effects of trans fats, but they are unaware that trans fat even exists. Maryland and specifically Baltimore should initiate an advertising campaign, in concert with health-oriented organizations, to address the health risks associated with trans fats.

These measures would be more practical than an outright ban. Such a ban would be difficult to enforce as it would draw limited resources from other, more pressing problems. In a city like Baltimore, with its high crime rate and low high school graduation rate, these limited resources should not be dedicated to addressing a problem that can be more effectively solved through transparency and education.

Governments have a responsibility to ensure the well-being of its citizens, but this must be done in the most pragmatic and effective manner.

OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

The extra benefits of extracurriculars

By DAVE SNYDER

Coming to Hopkins as a commuter student during my freshman year (and spending the next three years doing the same), I initially had the same questions and anxieties as others — would I make a lot of friends, would I have a good time, etc. — only it was a bit different for me, as I was not always in close proximity to the rest of the college campus.

This was one of the primary motivating forces (along with my love for politics, law and Model Congress in high school) when I decided to sign up to join the staff of the Johns Hopkins University Model United Nations Conference (JHUMUNC).

Though I encourage my readers to certainly consider JHUMUNC if it sounds like the type of thing they would be interested in, but I'd rather take this space to speak about extracurricular activities in general.

Now, as I am preparing to graduate, I find myself looking back over my four years to really absorb how my college experience has impacted me. Beyond school or drinking, it was the extracurricular activities that I participated in that really made me feel like I was getting involved and interacting with my peers.

I will forever cherish some of the moments I had spent with the Model UN. I hope that as I look back, those who will still be going to school here come the Fall will either get themselves involved or seek to maximize the experience of what they are already doing.

For me, JHUMUNC provided excellent opportunities, both social and intellectual, for me throughout my four years as a Hopkins student, and for that I could not be more grateful. The people who I met, the fun times we had together, the work that I did and the results we all accomplished as a result of our hard work, determination and collective efforts are truly amazing.

By facilitating the efforts of a large group of high schoolers for a four-day weekend every year, I truly felt privileged to have the opportunity to not only pass on my knowledge and experience to younger students (many of whom attend Hopkins as either a direct or indirect result of their JHUMUNC experience), but also to offer them the opportunities which I was given when I was their age.

It is a great feeling to know that you are influencing younger students in a positive way.

I feel like this is true of many of the extracurricular activities at Hopkins — whether one becomes a member of the Blue Key Society and gives tours to prospective students, participates in a simulated activity such as Model UN, tutors or even plays a sport which draws younger students out and turns them into fans of Hopkins; what we are doing makes a difference and we should all be aware of that and proud of the positive impact we can have on the younger generation.

There is certainly no shortage of extracurricular activities here on campus, whether one wants to get political and join the Hopkins Democrats or Republicans or the ACLU chapter, or to participate more actively in the social life of campus through a Greek organization or to play a varsity or club sport (for those of us who don't have the time and/or athletic ability, club sports and intramurals are great athletic outlets).

One can also give back to the community through tutoring or joining an organization such as Cooking for Love. All of these opportunities are available to us right at our fingertips.

And even if you can't find something that suits your wants or needs, you can always try to form your own organization (either through the Student Council or RAB or other organizations).

While these activities can certainly look good on resumes, that is not (and should not be) the only reason for participating in them. They keep you involved in the campus and community, give you a sense of self-betterment, keep you in shape physically and mentally and most certainly provide a welcome break from class and academics.

So for those of you who are unsatisfied with your academic or social experience here at Hopkins, I can only urge you to get out and see what kinds of opportunities there are around campus. Chances are, you will find something that suits you. I know I certainly did.

Dave Snyder is a senior political science major from Towson, Md.

By SHAWN McDONALD

Ever since I started watching *The Price Is Right* in the mornings, I have become a more aware consumer. When I see a bottle of V8 juice, I can confidently state that it costs \$3.15. Imagine my surprise when I pick up a few small bottles of juice, a couple tasty snacks and take it to the cash register at Charles Street Market. The cost: \$20. The technical term for that is "rip-off."

Aramark overcharges us and the lack of competition leaves the students with no recourse. The University should not force us to buy meal plans.

The most egregious offense of Aramark is the double-charge. Let's say Mary Kate and her friend Ashley go to the Charles Street Market. They both decide to purchase a box of Chicken in a Biskit baked snack crackers (an essential part of a healthy breakfast).

Mary Kate pays with her credit card and it costs her \$4.79 in real dollars. Ashley pays in Dining Dollars and it costs her \$4.79 ... or does it? A 1,500 Dining Dollar meal plan costs \$1,938 per semester. That means each Dining Dollar is actually worth about 77 cents. Ashley's box of Chicken in a Biskit costs her \$6.19.

Lucky Ashley. If I go to the store and buy the Chicken in a Biskit, it costs me \$6.32 because I am on an upperclassmen plan. I love Chicken in a Biskit but not that much.

All these facts you can find on <http://www.schooldish.com> with the help of a simple calculator. The Web site gives this excuse for the discrepancy between Dining Dollars and real dollars: "The Dining Dollars you receive cover the

Shawn McDonald is a junior political science major from Union City, Calif.

cost of the food and the staff involved in preparing and serving the food. The difference between the Dining Dollars and the dollars paid is the overhead or facilities charge associated with the University's cost of providing and maintaining the facilities and equipment for dining service operations." Oddly enough, normal restaurants and supermarkets must also pay for overhead and their staff. Yet I do not have to purchase special Chipotle Dollars in order to get a burrito. I find the argument unconvincing.

Even if they were justified in charging us extra money, I do not see how it is fair that Aramark can essentially charge two different prices for the same item. My Chicken in a Biskit costs me more than if I bought it with real money. Either they charge everyone the same price, or they should not allow anyone to use real money at the Charles Street Market.

The only other time I have seen two different prices charged is if someone has a special membership or a coupon. Here we have the situation in reverse. Whoever heard of a non-members discount? Use this coupon to pay 120 percent of the usual price!

What makes the system inherently unfair is that we have no way of protesting. If a place is failing its customers so badly, then the consumer should be able to take his business elsewhere. The students here have no recourse to normal market pressures.

If you live on campus, you are forced



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

to buy a meal plan. One has to use the Dining Dollars or else forfeit the money. A boycott is impossible because they have already taken my money upfront. They could charge twice as much as the nearest place and I would be forced to pay those prices. We're not customers; we're slaves.

My solution is radical but obvious: Get rid of the University meal plans. The meal plans are monopolistic and unfair. Students should be free to spend their money where they want.

Actually, I would go even further and say the University should not run any type of dining system. The dining halls, like Fresh Food Café, are poorly designed and poorly run. Do not force us to subsidize your sub-par dining halls and

food. Educate us; we will feed ourselves.

One counterargument would be to say that perhaps the University could use dining to entice prospective students. I doubt that. Face it, our mediocre food is not going to win any awards, and the only way we are going to get better food is if they charge us even more. No, let capitalism have free rein, and then we'll have better food and better service.

The removal of the dining system would save students money. The University can tell students that if they come here, they will not have to pay a few extra thousand dollars. That is way more enticing than the opportunity to purchase overpriced and undercooked vegetables.

Upper-class students continue to get kicked off campus

By MICHAEL GLENWICK

Nearly three years ago, during spring break of my junior year in high school, I took a tour of Hopkins. Our tour guide gushed about everything the school had to offer — lacrosse, engineering, political science, lacrosse, the Writing Seminars and, yes, more lacrosse.

She seemed genuinely proud of her school, with its strong academic programs and, well, lacrosse. However, she had left one aspect of university life out of her talk — housing — and my mom wasn't about to leave Baltimore without making sure that her little boy would be housed safely for his four years away from the nest.

"Is housing guaranteed?" my mom asked politely.

"Well, no, not yet," our guide replied, as if reading from a script. "But housing is going to be guaranteed for the first two years, and we're almost done building Charles Commons!"

Ah, the messiah itself was coming: a dorm disguised as a hotel, equipped with a cafeteria, mini-gym, and even a Starbucks. Essentially, Charles Commons would serve as a city within a city, making braving the oh-so-dangerous streets of Charles Village that much more unnecessary. The Commons, our guide promised us, was the answer to all

concerned parents' questions, providing us with the near-guaranteed housing that exists at many of our so-called "peer institutions."

But Hopkins, as I now know as an experienced sophomore, is not like its peer institutions. It is its own animal — as much a business as a university — and does what makes business sense. Three years ago, it appealed to me with promises of all-but-guaranteed housing but, as I found out in an e-mail on Feb. 21, leaves me on my own to find an apartment:

"Unfortunately, we are unable to invite you to attend the upper-class room selection process ... Thank you again for your interest in University housing and best wishes."

Well, the wishes were thoughtful, but a worry-free place to live would've been slightly more preferable, especially given the assurances the University made me and other prospective students in the spring of 2005.

Of course, on-campus housing is not for everyone, and some students are more than happy to deal with landlords and maintenance workers who couldn't care less about their tenants. However, as the e-mail from housing pointed out, there were "...a larger number of students express[ing] interest than ... space available." Surprise! Maybe some of us actually would like to wait a few years before

the fun of paying electric bills and rent.

Granted, Charles Commons, with its approximately 600 spaces, has alleviated the housing problems at Hopkins, but most of those spaces go to sophomores for whom, without it, housing couldn't be guaranteed even for students' second year. Maybe I should be grateful that I got to live on campus this year, even if it was in McCoy.

But, for some reason, I'm not content. The 80-100 spots that were open to my class do not even come close to meeting our needs.

If we really claim to be like our peers, why can't we actually act like them? What do Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth and Duke have in common? According to the College Board, at least 85 percent of their undergraduates live in campus housing. Considering the fact that some students will always want to live off-campus, this suggests that nearly anyone who wants campus housing at those schools can receive it.

So much for peer institutions. If *U.S. News and World Report* considered housing availability when comparing Hopkins to the aforementioned schools, maybe we'd see some progress.

In the meantime, however, all we can do is hope: hope that, at some point, Hopkins realizes that its responsibilities lie beyond providing us with

working classrooms, a library and a national-championship-winning lacrosse team.

That hope, though, is probably naïve. As the *News-Letter* reported last week, Hopkins was recently ranked fourth by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE) for its fundraising prowess, but the school still can't provide us with housing.

Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth and Duke — with their 85 percent housing rate — all raised less money according to CAE.

So in the end, the housing question is really one about priorities. Other reputable schools, like the aforementioned four, have demonstrated that it is possible to go beyond the bare minimum for housing, even without our fundraising expertise.

Five months ago, Hopkins finished completion of the \$75-million Decker Quadrangle, containing a garage that can hold 604 cars, many more than the previous parking area behind Garland Hall held.

Whose needs are more important, cars' or students'? It's a simple but telling question. As I hunt for my off-campus apartment, I know that it's probably not the latter.

Michael Glenwick is a sophomore International Studies and Spanish double major from New York, N.Y.

FAS develops conversation on campus

By LOGAN ASHCRAFT

The Johns Hopkins Foreign Affairs Symposium, commonly known as FAS, is an irreplaceable element of the intellectual atmosphere at Hopkins. Giving students the opportunity to engage in one-on-one dialogue with top political figures, such as John Bolton, Thomas Friedman and Joseph Stiglitz may be something that many people would consider characteristic to a distinguished university such as Hopkins.

Few realize, however, that the 17 Hopkins freshmen, sophomores and juniors who comprise the FAS staff are solely responsible for gathering the funding that allows FAS to survive.

The symposium's goals are pursued by these individuals who believe in the organization's ability to foster dialogue on campus, provoking students to challenge their opinions on politics, economics and their own potential to change the international community.

Speakers that agree to speak for the symposium are motivated by a desire to further cultivate the developing minds of their audience.

Paul Rusesabagina, this fall's first speaker, played a key role in protecting more than 1,200 refugees during the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

NPR correspondents have described Rusesabagina as the "Oskar Schindler of Africa," and his lecture at Hopkins filled Shriver Hall to capacity.

Few consider the complexity of logistically organizing this type of event. Everything from making his travel arrangements to publicizing the event was accomplished by the FAS staff and its co-chairs. This incredible group of young men and women were able to successfully host the event with scarce guidance from adults and Hopkins appropriated funds. And there are many events to come.

FAS exists to stimulate intellectual dialogue both on the Hopkins campus and the greater Baltimore area. This dialogue is the first step in preparing our generation to be active and responsible global citizens; we must consider and discuss the vital issues of the wider world before we can ever hope to change them. Globalization will not allow us to ignore these factors.

We must take responsibility for our own survival, the degree to which we demand that our leaders conduct themselves with honor and integrity, and the physical well being of our environment.

Our challenge is to formulate what former Soviet Union President Mikhail

Gorbachev calls the "new thinking," a philosophy of innovative approaches toward international affairs — an entirely new vision of the future.

It is especially important for the Hopkins community, one of the world's premier leaders in education and home of the nation's top international affairs undergraduate program, to be aware of this responsibility.

We must be involved, we must have opinions and we must fight for a cause in which we believe. The FAS staff rigorously pursues this mission, while managing to remain non-partisan, interdisciplinary and with minimal Hopkins funding or an outside agency to recruit speakers for them.

In addition to its lecture series (each of which is followed by question and answer sessions accompanied by a reception with the speaker), FAS also offers several panel discussions and debates every year.

Students are able to observe experts debate a wide variety of topics ranging from global epidemics to energy conservation and the impending climate crisis. Audience members are given the opportunity to question and critique what they hear and in many cases are challenged to articulate their own opinions.

"The fact that this year's first FAS event drew a crowd of over 1,200 people, about one-fourth of Hopkins' student body, is astounding. It shows that although Hopkins isn't a staunchly political campus, progress is being made," said David Rose, a Hopkins junior International Studies major.

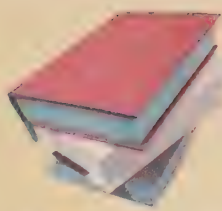
Despite the ever-changing political climate and state of international affairs, one thing will always remain. As humans, we inhabit a world of common destinies and common dangers.

The Symposium provides Hopkins students with the unprecedented opportunity to confront these impending threats and dangers with the guidance of renowned scholars, leaders, politicians and economists. These individuals wish to diversify our perspectives, confident that their contribution will ultimately be repaid in our actions here on campus, the greater Baltimore community and, eventually, the global community rather than in short-lived financial reimbursement. That is the great benefit FAS brings to the Hopkins campus and to our society.

Logan Ashcraft is a freshman International Studies major from Findlay, Ohio and an FAS staff member.

Campus Essentials

Don't leave your dorm without:



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Student I.D.



Frisbee



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Tunes



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*At no charge from JHFCU. Members are responsible for any surcharges the ATM owner may impose. Obtaining cash back during a point-of-sale transaction is free and does not count as an ATM withdrawal.

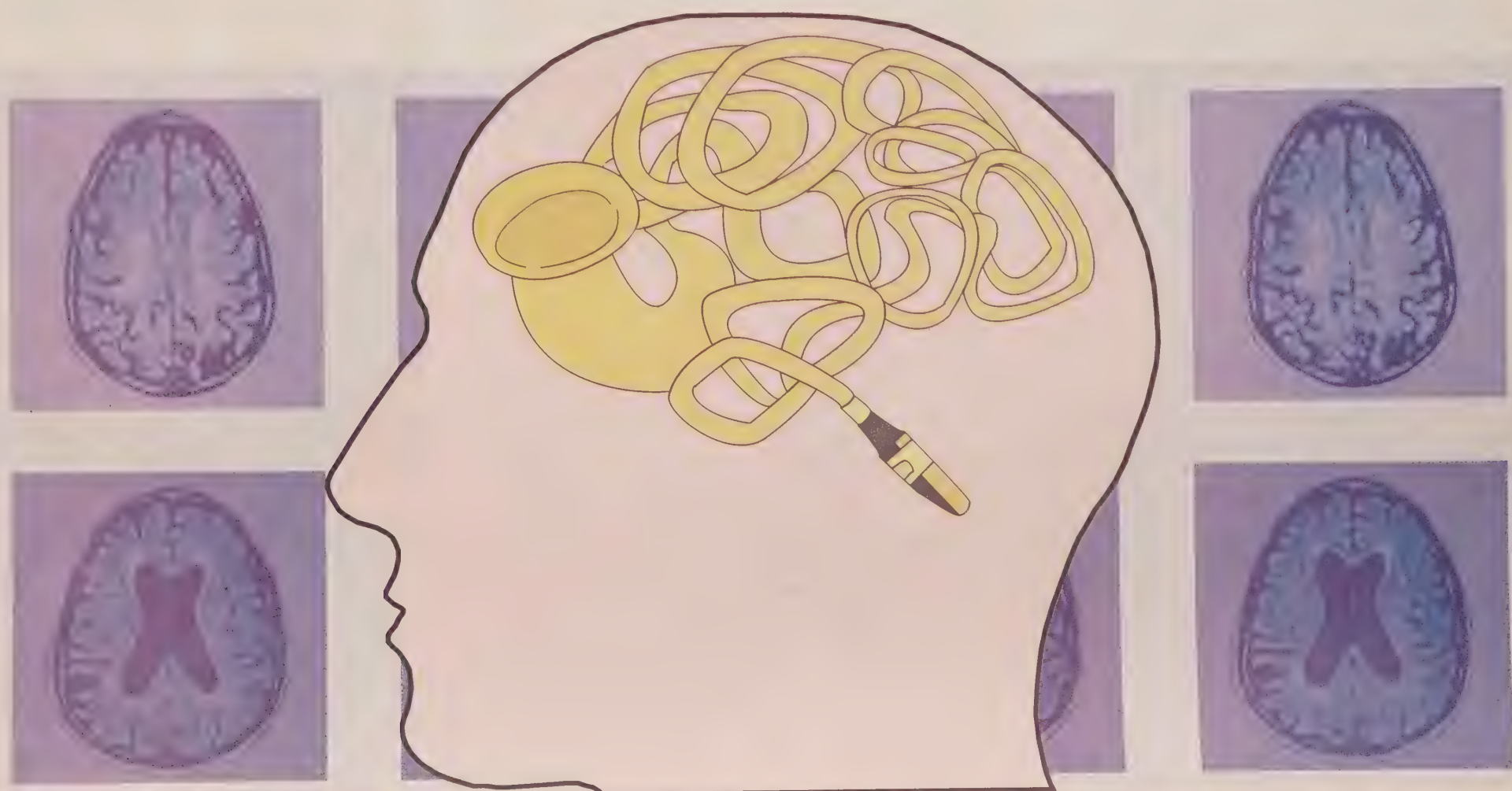
THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter

Arts & Entertainment • Science & Technology • Your News-Letter • Cartoons • Calendar • Sports

MARCH 6, 2008

+Sax on the br→ain



By **BEN KALLMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

The composer sits at his piano, an irked grimace on his face. He scribbles a few lines on some messy parchment. He stops, shakes his head and crosses out the lot of what he's written, the tip of his quill scratching angrily.

He appears to be in his own world, wholly ignorant of his surroundings.

Suddenly, a flash of inspiration flickers across his face. He excitedly pounds a few keys and

then smiles to himself knowingly.

Exaggerated, perhaps, but is this caricature of the detached, eccentric genius at work so far from the truth?

Most original music is indeed created through a combination of spontaneity and creative inspiration.

Until recently, though, where that "creative inspiration" comes from was a subject of debate. Many musicians have noted the altered state of mind during which most of their spontaneous

creativity takes place, a time when their actions lie outside their conscious awareness or control.

The Greco-Roman "muse" theory has long been debunked, but research hasn't progressed much further.

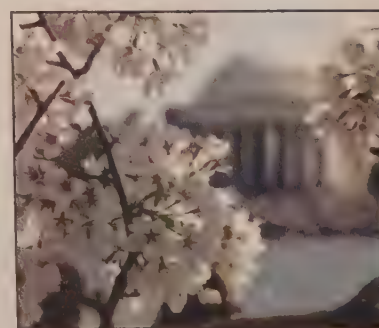
Now, a study by Hopkins scientist Charles Limb and his colleague Allen Braun, from the National Institutes of Health, has uncovered a specific pattern of brain activity that may underlie musical improvisation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B6

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In a campus that plays host to dance styles from Bhangra to hip hop, there has always been one noticeable lack: the demanding, technical ballet. Now, a group of students are seeking to change that, one plié at a time. Read more on B3.

INSIDE B SECTION



CALENDAR

• Spring is in the air and so are D.C.'s spectacular cherry blossoms. They are on display now so check them out., **B2**.

YOUR N-L

• We know them but rarely love them — the mistakes Hopkins guys make, **B8**.

SPORTS

• Catch the inside details of men's lacrosse victory against fifth-ranked Princeton, **B8**.

CALENDAR MARCH 6 - MARCH 12

MAR.
6

Sia Furler: the "real" but quirky deal

If you haven't heard of Sia, then you probably aren't a frequent Starbucks visitor. Her most recent album, whose cover flaunts a pixie blonde beauty with magic marker facepaint, is called *Real People Have Problems Too* and still graces the countertops of the coffee mega-house. She titled it as such to remind herself that some people have bigger problems than, as she mused in an interview with Metromix, "Ooh, my latté is bitter. And traffic sucks."

But despite Sia Furler's late entrance to the American music scene à la Starbucks Hear Music initiative, Sia's grounded approach to life and fame is not that of an amateur: She has a long history of intriguing excellence, often performing with the acclaimed relaxation-specialization duo Zero 7 on songs like "Destiny" and "Distractions."

However, Furler did not achieve widespread commercial success until she abandoned her native Australia for the United Kingdom and signed with Sony Music sub-label DancePool. She released *Healing Is Difficult*, a record with an eclectic mix of R&B and jazz sounds.

The album included underground club hits "Drink To Get Drunk" and "Little Man." It also featured "Taken for Granted," a song which reached the top 10 on the U.K. charts. Sia also recorded a tribute cover of Radiohead's "Paranoid Android," which appeared on *Exit Music: Songs with Radio Heads* in 2006.

Her musical profile, however, was significantly raised when her single "Breathe Me"



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.TIMEOUT.COM

U.K.-based singer/songwriter Sia Furler brings her eclectic Aussie appeal to Washington, D.C.'s 9:30 Club this Friday.

was featured in the final episode of HBO's *Six Feet Under*. The single received most of its notoriety through YouTube, as the link boasts 1,350,485 hits, including my own visit. Now, the U.K.-based singer-songwriter, born in Adelaide, South Australia, has poised herself on the brink of international fame.

Her song's lazy tempos, soft backdrops and the hazy, often muffled vocals create a sound fit for just about any lover of mellow music, even though it may, admittedly, not be revolutionary in its approach. Many of the tracks off of *Real People Have Problems Too* seem formulaic, tapping into the standard approaches to adult-alt music, funky beats and eccentric lyrical arrangements.

But to truly grasp and appreciate the quirky appeal of Sia, however, it is important to look beyond the songs themselves. In our age of internet-driven, visual-centric entertainment, Sia delivers with music video after music video of creative and off-kilter appeal. Her video for the song "Buttons," in which Sia herself appears bound by several uncomfortable household materials including shrink wrap, clothespins and even a condom, received some Internet cred by way of the ubiquitous Perez Hilton.

Sia undoubtedly knows how to balance herself, as she can so easily charm coffee shop regulars, blog-addicts and club kids alike: Her song "Little Man" was garage-remixed by Wookie to an audience of vast U.K.-club-

fame.

She has come a long way from her early days with acid jazz group Crisp, and this Friday, March 7, Sia is coming to the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C.

A rather intimate venue with a boast-worthy lineup of artists always at the ready, the 9:30 Club is sure to be the perfect stage to whet your appetite for Sia's fresh helping of edginess. Visit <http://www.930.com> for ticketing information, and directions on how to get there. A round-trip ticket on the MARC train is only \$14, and very worth the trip off-campus to D.C., where there are many great restaurants to start your night off right.

—Dana Covit

MOVIE OPENINGS

La Vie en Rose

Opening at The Charles Theatre
Friday, March 7

(410) 727-FILM or <http://www.thecharles.com> for showtimes



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM

The Oscar-nominated film *La Vie en Rose* is the story of Edith Piaf's (Marion Cotillard) famed life from the streets of Paris to the limelight of New York's glamorous concert halls.

Sunday, March 9

2 p.m. Hopkins Symphony Orchestra

There will be a talk at Shriver Hall with music director Jed Gaylin and Baltimore Shakespeare Festival artistic director James Kinstle. The program includes Tchaikovsky's "Violin Concerto" with soloist Kai Gleusteen, and excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. The concert will follow at 3 p.m. Entrance for students is free.

8 p.m. MySpace Music, Tour Featuring Justice

Sonar hosts this French electro-house duo for a night of dance that is sure to light up your Sunday. Tickets are \$30 and going fast, so visit <http://www.sonarbal-timore.com> for more information on the event and the venue, as well as information about the Taxlo Afterparty at Sonar as well.

9 p.m. Taxlo Dance AfterParty.

For just an extra \$5 if you've already purchased a Justice ticket, this week's TaxLo is a bargain and is sure to be even more revved up than usual from the earlier performance. For those going simply for TaxLo, entrance is \$8. DJs set to be spinning are Ghislain Poirier and Scottie B.

Monday, March 10

8 p.m. Matt White at the 8x10 Club.

Matt White's soulful, love-y melodies have earned him a "Ten Artists to Watch" recognition from *Rolling Stone*. He performs with opening acts Five Times August, and Byron Zanos at the 8x10, which is located at 10 E. Cross St. Visit <http://www.8x10.com> for ticketing information and directions.

Wednesday, March 12

7 p.m. The Pogues w/ the Pi-etasters.

By demonstrating that the spirit of punk could live in traditional Irish folk music, the Pogues were one of the most radical bands of the mid-'80s. Undeniably political with many of their songs explicitly in favor of working-class liberalism, the Pogues put on a great show of punk-injected folk. Visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

Have an event coming up? E-mail dana.covit@jhunewsletter.com with a short description, the time, the location and any other pertinent information.

Campus events

Friday, March 7

2 p.m. The Cognitive Science of Religion: The Pleasures of Transcendence

Paul Bloom, professor of psychology and linguistics at Yale, presents "The Pleasures of Transcendence," a lecture on the Cognitive Science of Religion, sponsored by the Evolution, Cognition and Culture Project, which explores the relations among evolution, cognition and culture.

8 p.m. The First Annual New Play Festival

The University Theatre wants to celebrate the wealth of student playwrights on the Homewood campus. Included in the evening of seven short one-acts is Eric Levitz's "Without Parachutes," which won the American College Theatre Festival Region II Ten-Minute Play Contest. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for general admission. Call (410) 516-5153. The same program will be shown on Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m. as well.

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Monday, March 10

Purchase D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival Tickets

Take a break from studying and head to D.C. for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Also called the Japanese Sakura these trees are indigenous to the Himalayas and were given to the United States by Japan in 1912. Tickets for bussed transportation to and from are only \$5 and can be purchased in FFC on Monday and Wednesday, March 10 and 12, from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and at Nolan's on Tuesday.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival will be held on weekends from March 29 - April 13.

Thursday, March 6

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Barnes and Noble Book Signing

Award-winning author Laura Lippman releases and signs her newest book, *Another Thing to Fall*.

Local events

Thursday, March 6

8 p.m. BMA Screening: The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

This riveting documentary reveals footage captured by an Irish television crew who happened to be with Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez during the April 2002 coup attempt. The BMA is located right near campus at 10 Art Museum Drive.

Friday, March 7

8 p.m. African Spirit Series at the BMA

This winter, the Baltimore Museum of Art honors the rich legacy of African culture throughout the world with the 17th-annual African Spirit Series, a soulful celebration of art, music, dance and film. Friday's event will feature a fusion of South African gumboot dance and the African-American fraternity step pound the floor and fill the air. The stage comes alive with Step Afrika's intricate kicks, stomps and rhythms mixed with spoken word. Reserve your by calling (446) 573-1832.

Saturday, March 8

10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Ubuntu Maryland Local Community Team Computer Support.

If your computer is slow, sluggish or just out of date, the Ubuntu Maryland Local Community Team is offering a free installation of Ubuntu on your computer. Ubuntu is a free and open source operating system including a full set of productivity, Internet, drawing and graphics applications and games. Drop by Loyola College Center for Community Informatics at 8890 McGaw Rd. in Columbia, Md. on Saturday, March 8 between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. 16th Annual FREE Concert for Children and Families: Fireworks & Swordplay

Music Director Jed Gaylin conducts a movement from Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* with soloist Kai Gleusteen, and excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. After the concert, the whole audience is invited on-stage to meet the musicians and see their instruments up close. Entrance to Shriver Hall is free.

Baltimore Online Hotline Volunteer Training

Every two minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is currently seeking volunteers to help survivors of sexual violence on the National Sexual Assault

Exposure

By Alex Begley



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New student ballet company fills dance niche

By SARAH SABSHON
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hopkins offers all kinds of dance opportunities: Indian, hip hop, modern and even Chinese Lion dance. Within this plethora of dances, where was ballet to be found? Nowhere.

This is precisely the reason that sophomore Jessilyn Dunn decided to take matters into her own hands.

"I tried to find my niche Hopkins ... ballet was always my passion but none of the dance teams here seemed to focus on ballet technique. I started going to the modern dance classes ... but this year I decided it was time for change. I knew there had to be other students out there just like me who had dedicated much of their lives to ballet and did not want to give up."

With a lot of paperwork, a petition of interest, and hours of effort, the Johns Hopkins Ballet Company finally came into existence. Offering two open student-taught classes per week, the JHU Ballet Company encourages all levels to participate, the main requirement being passion.

"I would like to see our classes become a permanent way for any students at Hopkins interested in ballet to give it a try, even if they have never had previous experience," Dunn said.

Recently, Homewood Arts has been holding open ballet classes, separate from the company's classes, taught by professionals on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The establishment of the company seemed like the next step. So far, it has been seen as a welcome addition to the campus.

"When Jessilyn came to me, I thought it sounded great because



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Members of the newly formed Johns Hopkins Ballet company choreograph the song "Once upon a December" from *Anastasia*.

it is different than any other group on campus," said Eric Beatty, director of the Homewood Arts Program. "Ballet is an exiting form because it is the foundation for dance that a lot of people study, from which they then branch off and do other things ... We just started offering classes and so there was a nice synthesis of events."

Students interested in ballet are relieved to finally find an outlet for their passions.

Sophomore Kate Flores expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "I used to dance ballet from first grade through my senior year of high school. I know that there are ballet classes offered here at Homewood, at Peabody, and at Goucher College, but they simply haven't fit my schedule

most of the time. With that said, when I found out that the JHU Ballet Company's classes fit my schedule, I was psyched. It was icing on the cake to find out that joining the JHU Ballet Company also meant having the chance to perform again — I haven't performed since my junior year of high school."

Flores isn't the only one who is thrilled at the chance to continue dancing. Freshman Adam Reiffen, the token male member of the Company, discovered ballet his senior year of high school during a break from his busy practice schedule as captain of the varsity football team.

"I fell in love with it and knew I would continue in college," Reiffen said. "I'm just trying to improve my technique. I have flat

feet, small calf muscles, no turn out and a hamstring injury, but I'll be damned if I don't enjoy it and I'll continue to work hard and push myself at it."

Unfortunately for Reiffen, it looks like his hamstring injury will keep him out for the rest of the semester, but he plans to return next year with every intention of performing.

As a member of the Allnighters and a SigEp pledge, Reiffen seems like a man's man and completely undeserving of his nicknames like "The Swan" or "Tchaikovsky," after the composer of *The Nutcracker*.

"It's cool to force people to change their perspective ... I don't feel like there is a sign over my head but I'm probably the only guy on campus who dances ballet ... it's kind of fun to be unique in that regard," he said.

With such a warm reception, one cannot help but wonder why the creation of the ballet company is so long overdue. "I think it takes the right person to come along and do the leg work and

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

Tom Stoppard modernizes a classic play: Hamlet

By SARAH ADDISON
News-Letter Staff Writer

Before seeing *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, it is a necessity to have seen or at least to have read Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Without knowing the first version of the tragedy of the Prince of Denmark, it is impossible to fully comprehend the interplay between Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and their relationship to the other "major" characters from *Hamlet*.

That being said, even if one is familiar with *Hamlet*, grappling with the world created by modernist playwright Tom Stoppard is no easy task.

In Center Stage's production, Michael Jean Dozier plays the role of the more playful and naïve Rosencrantz, while Howard W. Overshaw is the more serious and intellectual Guildenstern. Successfully portraying the duo as "everymen" that embody the good of humanity and as singled out individuals, who are victims

of circumstance, Dozier and Overshaw both give heartfelt performances. They elicit sympathy for the two friends whose fates are held in the hands of outside forces in the form of the royal court of Denmark.

Throughout the play, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern broach the subjects of the world's incomprehensibility and seemingly random nature, often to comic effect, but like *Hamlet*, played by Reese Madigan, they also consider what death is and whether it is better "to be or not to be," without reusing those words.

Their conversations simultaneously are interrupted and enhanced when Mark Elliot Wilson and Chandler Vinton, as the King and Queen of Denmark order them to discover what ails *Hamlet*. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern role-play to guess at what readers of *Hamlet* already know afflicts the Prince.

Stoppard cleverly has the two title characters debate the role of

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



COURTESY OF CENTERSTAGE

Guildenstern (Howard W. Overshawn) and Rosencrantz (Michael Jean Dozier) reflect.

4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days: a Juno it isn't

By JOHN KERNAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Romanian writer and director Cristian Mungiu sought to make a "serious" film as part of his planned *Memories* from the Golden Age series. And he certainly succeeded and more with 4 luni, 3 săptămâni și 2 zile (4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days).

Previously, Mungiu directed 2002's *Occident*, which also earned him recognition at Cannes. The director, who lists Robert Altman and Milos Forman among his influences, is planning a three-part series of related films, all centering on Romania while still under Communist rule. The first, *4 Months...*, released first in early 2007 for critics, is meant to be the darkest of the three, focusing on the most repressive and depressing aspects of Romanian Communism.

Nicolae Ceaușescu led Romania from 1965 to 1989, under various titles but always as head of a Stalinist regime. He bulldozed and rebuilt a fifth of Bucharest to fit his vision of the city's future. Entire villages' populations were relocated to cities as part of an urbanization process.

And, of course, Mrs. Ceaușescu reversed a previous decree legalizing abortion. In 1989, Ceaușescu was overthrown violently, and the communist regime ended. The tumultuous times serve as Mungiu's inspiration for the *Memories* from the Golden Age series.

The film was exceedingly well received, earning the Palme d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, the Festival's highest honor. It appears on numerous critics' "best of 2007" lists. Now, the film has come to Baltimore, and the artistically inclined can ponder the heavy piece at The Charles.

The film chronicles Romanian student Gabita's efforts to get an abortion in 1987 Romania, still under Ceaușescu's rule. She is helped enormously by her roommate Otilia, who helps her every step of the way, dealing

with Gabita's numerous blunders. *4 Months* opens in a rather depressing Romanian university dormitory, where students are packed four to a room. Students deal black market cigarettes, makeup, and medicine from under their beds or from their closets.

Gabita and Otilia are packing for their trip to the city, where they are to meet the illegal abortion practitioner. Gabita is clearly a wreck — she can barely function, and Otilia has to remind her of every thing she needs to do, bring, and remember. Otilia has to arrange everything — including getting much of the money used to pay for the procedure.

After a tense scene with her boyfriend, who remains ignorant of the abortion, they travel to meet Mr. Bebe, the boorish and crude abortionist, whose actual medical training remains ambiguous.

Otilia works Gabita through their many complications, sacrificing her own desires for her friend when they have no other options. The story is really more about Otilia than the pregnant Gabita, for it is she that really bears the mental — if not physical — strain of the abortion process.

Artistry abounds in the film. There is a significant presence of stray dogs in many of the outdoor scenes. Perhaps, of course, this just reflects the conditions of Romania in 1987, or perhaps Mungiu had some greater symbolic purpose. If so, it was totally beyond me.

After the abortion is completed, the two girls sit in silent reverie and self-pity, while a wedding party celebrates across the hotel lobby. The symbolic intention here is

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

Anamaria Marinca as Otilia and Laura Vasiliu as Gabita in *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*.

Print fair takes a chance on MICA

BMA's biannual print fair succeeds with new, provocative pieces and MICA student art for sale

By LIZ SCHWARTZBERG
Copy Editor

This past weekend the Baltimore Museum of Art hosted the biannual Baltimore Fair for Contemporary Prints and New Editions, which showcased a wide variety of prints, drawings, photography and digital images from 12 different sources, including galleries, art dealers and an accomplished group of students from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).

The participants came primarily from Maryland and New York, but a few hailed from Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. The fair was accessible to a wide audience, as prices ranged from \$15 to over \$100,000.

Everyone at the fair was friendly, approachable and in good spirits. The strong sampling of up-and-coming art was captivating, and the fair offered an opportunity to mingle with artists and art dealers alike.

Some of the pieces at the fair were shocking, such as a large screenprint by Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese (Ligorano/Reese). The artists, known for their political commentary, once made an ice sculpture called "The State of Things" that spelled "DEMOCRACY" and they filmed it as it melted and crumbled over 24 hours.

Their work on display at the fair, called "Untitled 2001," depicted President Bush's face at the moment he was told about the attack on the World

Trade Center. Ligorano/Reese's cartoonish manipulation of the photograph lent the piece an odd sense of humor that, when combined with the disturbing implications of Bush's facial expression and what is being whispered in his ear, left viewers feeling unsettled. The piece came from Jim Kempner Fine Art, a beautiful space in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York.

Another striking piece, called "Repent, from 'Soul Erased,'" by Joyce Scott, combined prints, lithograph, screenprint and embossing to startling effect. Scott, a MICA graduate, juxtaposes a fiery, faceless angel with wild, wavy hair and a cheerful-looking skeleton with extra limbs against a stark white backdrop. The two figures seem to be dancing together, and it is unclear whether we should want to join these creatures in their revelry or fear them for what they represent. The print was shown by Goya Contemporary & Goya-Girl

Press, a gallery located just west of Hopkins's campus in Hampden.

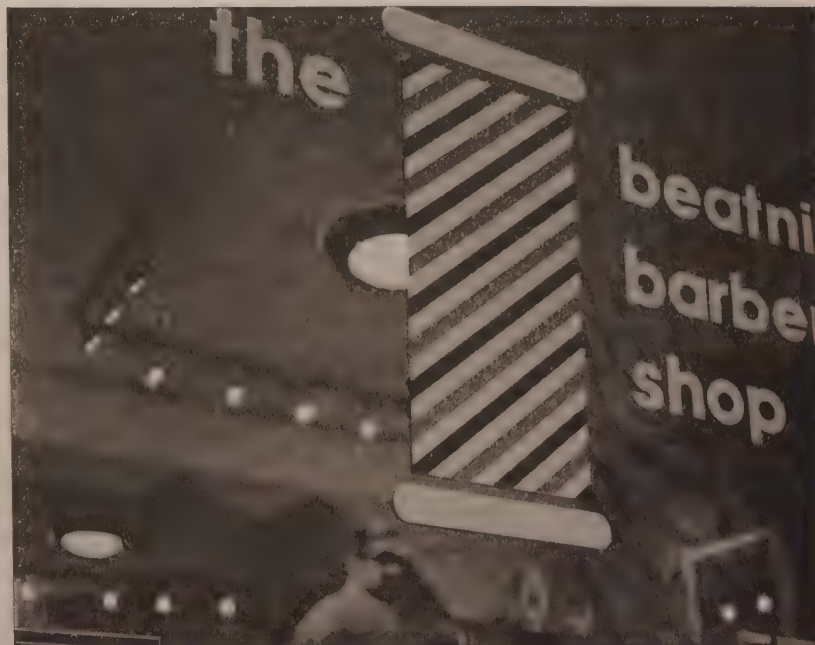
This year was the first time in the fair's 16-year history that students of any kind were able to show their work.

"They took a gamble in letting a student organization be a part of this. Hopefully now they'll continue to have us, MICA students and alumni, involved," said Ryan Ives, a senior at MICA and co-organizer of MICA's show at the fair.

He said that the fair was a huge success for MICA students, who had the opportunity to sell their work as well as interact with successful art dealers and collectors. The fair's Artist & Editions Award, given to an artist who has produced remarkable work in printmaking, was awarded to MICA graduate Adam Oestreicher.

The photography of one artist in particular, MICA senior Alex Cummings, grabbed the attention of many attendees.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Alex Cummings displayed her pictures from around Baltimore, including this one of the Beatnik Barber Shop.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Peabody recital reveals Hopkins talent

By NATALIE BERKMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

On Sunday afternoon, six of the hardest working students at Hopkins performed for a limited audience of around 15 people. These students are earning a double degree with Peabody, studying music and theory, fitting in hours of practice alongside their already time-consuming efforts on the Homewood campus.

This is the third annual Double Degree Recital, a concert showcasing the double degree students' talent with many different musical selections ranging from Bach to Britten and also included a classical Indian dance piece. Due to the variation of every piece and instrument, the concert never dulled.

Lauren Latessa, a junior cellist, played a Baroque piece by J. S. Bach, while junior Ryan Hearty demonstrated his skill in classical guitar.

Lindsay Scattergood, a sophomore oboist, played a more modern oboe "metamorphosis" by Benjamin Britten; Rachael Kerr, a junior pianist, performed a piece by Liszt and then a Mendelssohn piano trio with Lauren Latessa and Pervinca Rista, a junior violinist.

Each student played beautifully, exemplifying tremendous control over their instruments and a wonderful sense of musical expression.

To wrap up the evening with another art form entirely, senior Anita Sivaraman, winner of the 2008 Sudler Arts Prize, performed a Bharata Natyam-style Indian dance piece.

Although the recital proved entertaining, the real focus of the afternoon was the performers and all the effort that goes on behind the scenes. These students juggle demanding courseloads at Hopkins with hours of musical instruction and practice, without much special acknowledgement.

The Peabody-Homewood Double Degree Program is intense, both to get into and to graduate from. In order to pursue a double degree, a student must apply separately to both Johns



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Double-degree performer Lauren Latessa plays a Bach piece on the cello. The concert showcased Hopkins's most multi-talented.

Hopkins and Peabody and write an extra essay to be considered for the program.

Getting into Hopkins is hard enough, but Peabody is a world-class conservatory and to be accepted, not only do you need to fill out a few pieces of paper, but you also need to audition before a panel. These students anxiously awaited three letters of acceptance: one for Hopkins, one for Peabody, and one for the double degree program. It is possible to get into both schools and not be accepted for the program.

Once accepted, the process has really just begun. Double degree students typically spend five years here and take anywhere from 25-35 credits per semester. Those credits are both in music and in classes at Hopkins. In addition, so much of their time is spent shuttling back and forth.

"It's definitely not easy," said Latessa who, aside from being a Peabody cellist is also an art history major. "I enjoy everything I'm doing and there's nothing I'd

give up."

"It's fairly busy," said Rachael Kerr, a pianist and chemistry major. "There have been some stressful times!"

"I find that I'm using multiple parts of the brain every day," said Scattergood, an oboist and pianist who is also majoring in anthropology.

Hearty, an electrical engineer, explained that, while challenging, the program gives a student the ability to taste all different areas of study.

"It's a well-rounded program," he said. "[The application process] was tough. You felt like if you didn't get into one school, it was all over."

Sivaraman isn't a double degree student, but her dancing earned her the Sudler Arts Prize this year. To earn this award, she competed against seniors in each separate school of Johns Hopkins, including Peabody.

"I've been learning to dance since I was four," she said. "I perform in India every year. It allows me really to keep in touch

with the culture."

Anita is a co-president and choreographer of Shakti, the on-campus classical Indian dance team and she will be going to medical school next year.

"I definitely want to keep dancing ... it's my passion."

Passion is the bottom line reason for all the effort. Dedicated to two demanding mistresses, art and academia. However, in many cases, the music helps these students stay committed to their academics. "The violin helps with my Romance Languages major," said Pervinca Rista, a junior violinist. "Both are very humanities oriented."

"[Chemistry and music are] a good break from each other," Kerr said. "When I'm tired of academics, I practice for a few hours and when I'm sick of music, it's nice to switch to something orderly that has an answer."

"I think it's important for a musician to study art," Latessa said. "My disciplines are interrelated."

Kerr has decided to study music in graduate school. "After four years of doing both things, I want to focus on just one," she said. "It's where my heart is."

Dancers find outlet in ballet company

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
other people who are committed. Hopkins students are so busy ... It could be that ballet is the kind of form that you need to do on a regular basis and people weren't quite ready to commit," Beatty said.

That is precisely the case, explained Dunn, who insists that the company practice at least twice a day.

"Ballet is such a multi-dimensional form of dance. While on stage, the dancers look light and wispy, but it takes such strength and focus on technique that in actuality most ballet dancers are as strong as many athletes," Dunn said.

If this semester is any indication, students are now more than ready to take on the challenge of starting a campus ballet company. The past few weeks have proved more fruitful than the fall semester did.

"Last semester was rough because there wasn't enough time after all the time spent actually starting the company to prepare performance pieces," Dunn said.

This semester, however, the company has one finished lyrical performance piece choreographed by freshman Kara Mirski and another more classical one by Ashlee Aaroe.

"It was a little nerve wracking [choreographing 'Steer'] because I didn't really know the girls — their styles, abilities or even their names! — but overall I think it went really well. I'm proud that they handled what I threw at them. As for inspiration, I really like choreographing to the music. I think dance is a method for interpreting music for the audience."

Mirski's piece, "Steer," was performed for the first time at the JHU Model UN Conference this past weekend.

Due to space constraints, the performance was less than stellar and costumes were not the most flattering; the potential, however, was definitely evident.

Flores agreed, saying, "I thought our first performance was a little challenging, since the area on which we had to dance

was rather small; however, for a first performance, I thought it went smoothly ... I felt good overall about it."

The members of the Company are not satisfied, however, with the progress they have made thus far. They see the company becoming a fixture in the Homewood arts community.

"Next year we plan to join the Performing Arts Council to become audition-only, and also we would like to prepare a show featuring the entire company, hopefully with costumes and all — if we can raise enough funds," Dunn said.

"It would be nice if the school could fund us," Reiffen said, elaborating on Dunn's point. "It'd be great to have a floor on which the girls could dance on pointe ... but I think the interest is here and certainly the talent is here."

Flores noted that the Company is a force to be reckoned with on campus.

"We're very young, but we're already going fairly strong. The current members have pretty strong dance backgrounds, and with all our experience combined, some fun dance pieces are bound to come out over the next few semesters," Flores said.

With all this potential, it seems inevitable that the Company will soon become a notable arts group on campus.

According to Reiffen, "If Hopkins is interested in growing their arts community then the ballet company is integral in that augmentation."

This year's event may have been the most successful so far. By sparking interest in creating, collecting and selling art, the print fair enables the BMA to extend its influence in the community and in the wider art world.

BMA print fair rich with variety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
"In the print fair I included photos from three different series: 'Reflections,' 'Building Tops' and 'Israel,'" Cummings said.

"The 'Reflections' series was taken in different locations around Baltimore and I used window reflections to create photographs with multiple layers, showing inside and outside in one view," she said.

Some of the most expensive pieces at the fair were shown by Charles M. Young Fine Prints and Drawings, based in Connecticut. Charles Young and his wife, Susan, specialize in contemporary American, contemporary European, German expressionists, modern avant-garde, modern master and surrealism.

"We sold things ranging from \$120 to some things in the tens of thousands, and ranging from about 1920 to brand new," said Young, a MICA graduate making his fourth appearance at the fair.

Young had displayed a Picasso for sale at \$130,000, called "Les Deux Saltimbanques"—meaning "the two circus performers." Young said that the BMA has a comparable Picasso print in its permanent collection.

The first fair was in 1990 and was originally held annually.

"In 2000, the format changed to a biannual print fair. The print fair last weekend was the 15th fair," said Sherri Katz, a co-organizer of the print fair who works in the Department of Prints, Drawings & Photographs at the BMA.

This year's event may have been the most successful so far. By sparking interest in creating, collecting and selling art, the print fair enables the BMA to extend its influence in the community and in the wider art world.

New Vibrations

Goldfrapp Seventh Tree Mute U.S. Feb. 26, 2008

The last thing an artist should want to be told upon releasing a new album is that it's safe. Why? Because safe is worthless. Risk, at least, gives the artist some manner of credit for trying something new, for seeing what could come about from a new sound, and possibly giving themselves material to build off of for their next album.

In that sense, Goldfrapp's *Seventh Tree*, released Feb. 28, is a disappointment. It is safe. Better known for their indie dance(ish) music, Goldfrapp has taken what is otherwise quite a decent sound, a fun one at least, and sapped it of its energy to pass it off as something more serious.

The English duo (Alison Goldfrapp on synthesizer and vocals; Will Gregory on synthesizer) formed Goldfrapp in 1999 and remained mostly under the radar until *Black Cherry* (2003), which took them farther from the ambient sound of their 2000 debut album *Felt Mountain* and closer to the electronic dance music fetishized in the 1990s. They reached the peak of their popularity with 2005's *Supernature*, which had three number one U.S. dance songs and earned the group a nomination for "Best Electronic/Dance Album" at the 49th Grammy Awards in February 2007.

With this album, it seems Goldfrapp was trying to venture into "serious" music; that is, backtrack from the dancing beats and creativity that made them likeable, returning to the washed-out, ambient sound of their first album.

I admit I'm being hard on Goldfrapp: If produced by an up-and-coming band, brand new to the industry, I would not have been nearly so disappointed by the lack of momentum in the album or in the songs themselves. But coming after a Grammy nomination for one of the most typically "fun" genres, electronic/dance, it is sorely lacking. Their two prior albums were seductive and easy to listen to, but were exciting, layering sweet vocals and gritty synth, experimenting with complementing electronic sounds both metallic and feminine. This one maintains the sweetness of her voice, some electronic sounds and palatability, but the electro minus the



dance brings it dangerously close to New-Age ambient.

The album actually begins relatively strongly. The first track, "Clowns," features Alison Goldfrapp's lovely vocals, high and wavering and entirely indecipherable. The layering of, surprisingly, an acoustic guitar that mimics classical guitar and a synthesizer create a chill, washing sound. At their best, Goldfrapp evokes what *Rolling Stone* has called post-party chill-out music.

Sometimes they do exciting things like break out into drums and louder, more insistent vocals, shifting rhythm with triplets, as they do at the end of "Little Bird." "Happiness" and "Caravan Girl," too, are a bit bouncier and livelier. The latter features a classic drum set and harmonizing female vocals, reminiscent of a cuter, happier Garbage. It seems that the songs that are the most successful don't take themselves too seriously.

On the other hand, the ones that are more less fun are too wishy-washy-ambient to really take seriously. Unfortunately, hushed vocals over hushed instrumentals get very old very fast. Sia, one artist whose sound has been compared to Goldfrapp's, is also prone to floundering in her electronic waterworks, and fans of hers will find some songs here appealing regardless of whether or not I am bored of them. However, I do take offense to the *Los Angeles Times*'s comparison of Goldfrapp to Air: The latter takes great care to change their song patterns, to bring in new, distinct sounds and to maintain momentum in their songs so that we do not forget the album immediately after hearing it.

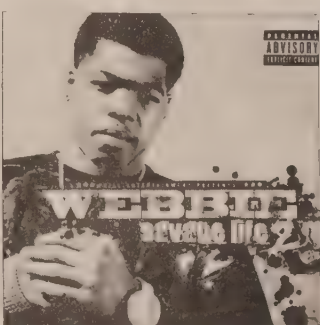
Altogether, *Seventh Tree* is not that extraordinary, but it is easy to listen to. Nothing is particularly offensive, but nothing really sticks out either. Despite some enjoyable songs, after listening to the album, there was no single track I really remembered, whether for an interesting sound or good lyric. It was all rather washed over, and maybe washed out.

—Vanessa Verdine

Webbie Savage Life 2 Asylum Records Feb. 26, 2008

Savage Life 2, Louisiana rapper Webbie's most recent attempt at justifying southern hip hop's protracted and mostly unenjoyable tenure, will probably be enjoyed predominantly by hip-hop's detractors rather than its fans. Webbie is in an almost unique position to be noticed in the media while at the same time exhibiting the truly horrible sub-mediocrity that would otherwise keep a marginally worse rapper neatly contained in obscurity. The task of pinpointing what is specifically so bad about an album like *Savage Life 2* is difficult. Perhaps the only impressive aspect of the album is how it almost conceals its own inadequacy from one track to the next. Webbie and the production work he raps over are so forgettable that you're left annoyed and offended without really remembering what was so bad about whatever you were just subjected to.

The usual saving grace of bad rap is good production; the sort of music you can put on in the background while you're cleaning out your desk or raking leaves because the sounds of 50 Cent's voice and a Just Blaze beat are more amusing than silence. But at no point across 16 tracks does Webbie's production team try to execute more than heinously dull, mushy, southern muzak beats that drown the listener in tinny drums and low-rent hand claps. If Webbie is half as rich as he fronts throughout this album, you'd think he could have at least paid for someone better



than Mannie Fresh to put some pretty paint on his own lyrical train wreck.

Webbie never succeeds in being anything more than generic and stupid, and it's hard to find any evidence that he hopes to be anything more than that. The album lacks any semblance of effort, imagination, ingenuity or anything even resembling interest in his subject matter.

The album is more or less what concerned parent groups and ignorant, scared grandparents claim they hate about rap. Webbie tackles the terribly commonplace with nothing but an irritating voice and mushy flow. He has nothing to say, and he says it quite poorly.

If you have been listening to music in 2008, dejected, disappointed, lacking an album in your life with which you can consider how much Webbie does or does not enjoy weed, diamonds, money, women, cars, money, weed and weed, your year is suddenly looking up. If you're desperate to fill up a 160 GB iPod, at least listen to the first 15 seconds or so of "I'm Hot" before downloading: "I'm hot, it's my turn/I wouldn't touch me 'cause my hand might burn/I'm cold, you already know..." If this is what passes for rap this year, then shame on the south, and the genre in general.

—Sam Biddle



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Members of the Johns Hopkins Ballet Company rehearse in Mattin for their performance this past week.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

4 Months depresses but impresses *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* not a dead play yet



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://www.allmoviephoto.com)
Otilia (Anamaria Marinca) peruses black market goods in a Romanian University dorm. The film focuses on communist repression.

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unmissable, even for a thick-headed reviewer such as myself.

Artistic excess aside, the story is compelling and moves well. Otilia is the main mover, constantly correcting Gabita's exasperating blunders, but we can hardly blame her, given that she is about to undergo a procedure that, even if it goes well, carries with it a potential five-year jail

sentence.

But this is more than a story about Romania or communism, women or abortion. It brings together emotions surrounding any human conflict. The film connects the viewer to the characters and their problems. Otilia ultimately loses just as much as Gabita through the process of obtaining the abortion. Both women are abused, judged and cornered. We feel their sorrows,

and become frustrated along with them. When they are forced into a terrible situation, we sympathize and agree with their choices, terrible as they may be.

The film is terribly depressing. Those who have the knee-jerk reaction to call it a "Romanian *Juno*" couldn't be more wrong. And sure, there are a few set-ups that go unresolved. A weapon is introduced, leaving us in suspense of how it might be used, which it isn't. We are introduced to interesting characters, with weaknesses ready to be exploited, and then we never revisit them.

However, we must assume Mungiu, a master filmmaker, knew exactly what he was doing here — setting us up with false hope, much like the hopeless situations in which we find the Gabita and Otilia.

The film is rarely, if ever, funny, and the ending leaves us feeling just as terrible as the graphic climax. If you can stomach it, however, it is an excellent piece of filmmaking and a true work of art.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
an actor, as well. During their encounters with the tragedians who stage *The Murder of Gonzago*, in addition to bawdy, burlesque routines, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern ask how someone playing a part can be realistic or moving when they die over and over again on stage.

This group of actors, especially the lead player, Laurence O'Dwyer, convincingly proves that even though he and his fellow tragedians are acting, the audience is accustomed to what their performance mimics. Thus, it is difficult not to be touched by the realistic recreation of life and death, even if one is aware that the story is not real.

In Act III, Stoppard continues to plays off audience expectations with an added fighting scene. "Invisible" pirates randomly attack the ship taking them to England, since it is proclaimed that the audience will not be happy unless there is some sort of action.

Like other scenes, this one provides relief from the underlying melancholy of the play since at this time when the pirates launch an assault on the boat presumably Hamlet's fate is sealed, but Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are sailing toward their deaths, as well.

Though it is highly philosophical and engaging, it must be said that the play is very talky, probably due to the fact that Stoppard apparently loved experimenting with words to the point of distraction.

Also, most of the action happens off-stage or near Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, rather than to them. Hamlet chases Ophelia, played by Kristen Sieh, or Polonius, played by Ralph Coshman, consults King Claudius and Queen Gertrude, while Rosencrantz and

Guildenstern are left contemplating what happens around them and speculating if there is any way out for them.

Because the dialogue goes by quickly and even Rosencrantz and Guildenstern misunderstand each other and their own identities, the audience must concentrate throughout in order to attempt to decipher the overall message.

Yet not being able to completely pin the play down is gives it a fascinating quality. Though they remain ambiguous, the title *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and the plot suggest that the pair is already dead. They might still be alive, but they may not be. Instead they might be reliving the moments just before they are executed and they could be finding out, like the audience is, what the complete story of Hamlet entails.

Beyond the storyline or lack thereof, the set designer and costume designers made interesting choices for this production. The setting was minimalist to the maximum with a forest made of extra large colorful figurines, a castle entrance hall with two gor-

geous chandeliers and doors that lead to nowhere, and a ship with umbrellas and lighting resembling water ripples.

It is a bit jarring at first that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern wear clownish, Depression-era outfits, the tragedians wear Elizabethan actors' clothing with a hint of modern punk flair, Claudius and Gertrude wear formal current clothing and Polonius, Ophelia and Hamlet wear late Victorian-esque costumes. However, the mismatching costumes seemed to work by underscoring the disunity and competition among the characters.

Originally, Stoppard's play was novel and an immediate success when it premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1966; now it seems to resemble other proceeding works like Beckett's apocalyptic *Waiting For Godot* or the straightman and comic act of Abbott and Costello. However, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is still thought-provoking, and even though Stoppard borrowed certain concepts, he gives them a new spin.

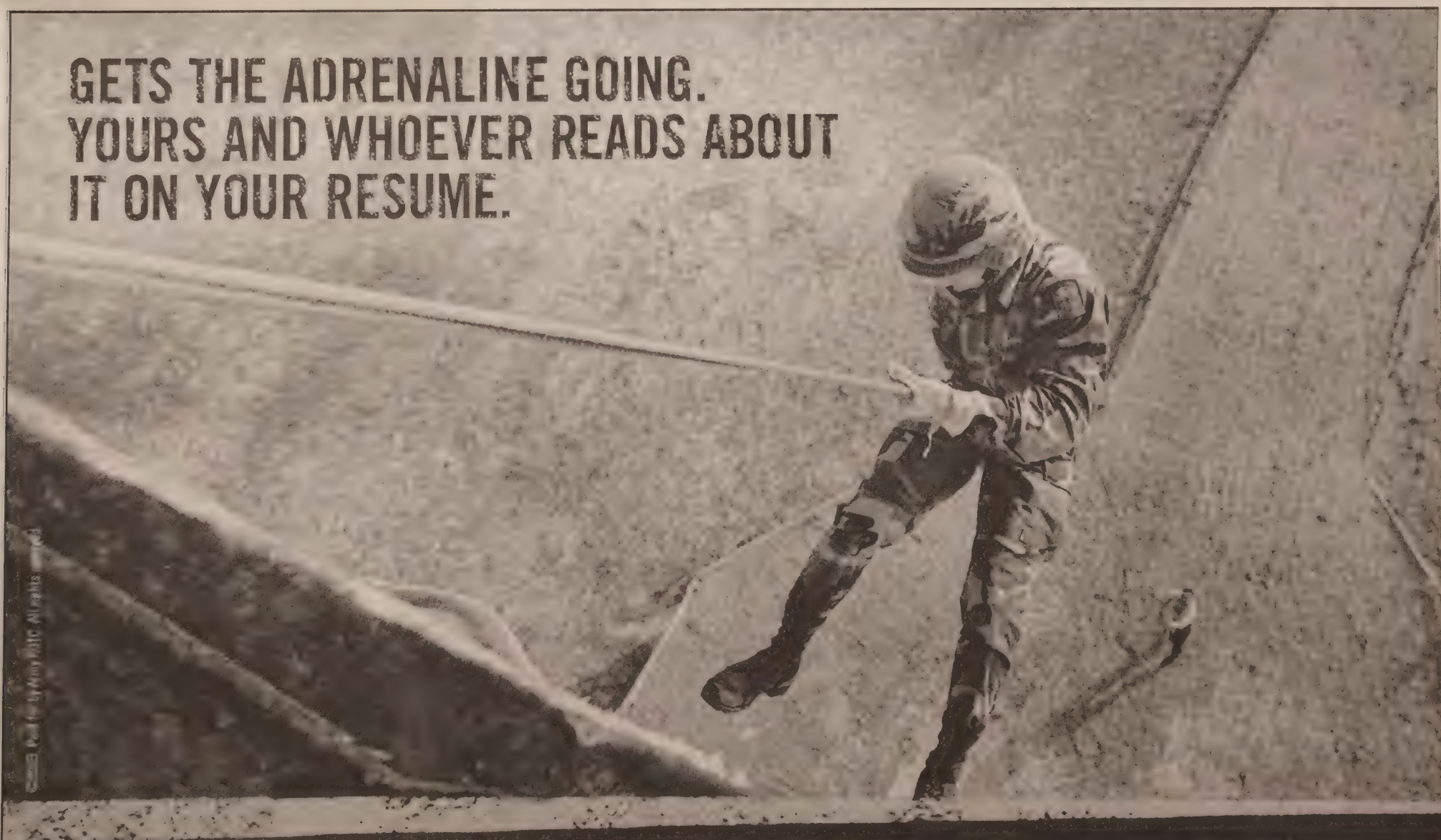


COURTESY OF CENTERSTAGE
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern bring a new perspective to Shakespeare's classic play *Hamlet*.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://www.allmoviephoto.com)
Otilia and her boyfriend's relationship becomes strained due to her friend's abortion.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Brain scans reveal signatures of musical creativity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

"I think that many arts share the same intuitive, creative flash that is both deliberate but also completely spontaneous and random," Limb said.

Limb and Braun used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), a popular and increasingly instructive method of imaging the brain's activation in real time, while test subjects are actually completing a task.

In this case, the researchers recruited six highly trained jazz pianists from the Peabody Institute, the music school at Hopkins, and put them inside an fMRI machine with a specially designed, non-magnetizable keyboard. An fMRI machine is essentially a hugely powerful magnet.

Jazz was chosen as a medium because, Limb said, "unlike any other musical genres, improvisation is the essence of jazz." Indeed, no two jazz solos are the same, but even the most "unscripted behavior" is based off the context of a given composition and occurs within a framework of musical rules.

In order to mimic real-life improvisation as realistically as possible, the researchers designed their experiment to include some limitations on their musician-subjects' ability to improvise. They set up two situations in order to impart both "scientific rigor" and "high-level musicality" to their study, Limb said.

The pianists were allowed to improvise in both situations, but the level of musical complexity with which they were allowed to improvise varied between the two.

In the low-complexity case, they were "highly constrained," Limb noted. As a control, subjects were asked to play a one-octave C-major scale repeatedly. When it came time for improvisation, they were only allowed to play quarter notes in the C-major scale within the same octave. That's kind of like telling Mozart to compose a symphony on only four piano keys.

The high-complexity case was slightly more involved. The pianists had been asked to memorize

a jazz composition beforehand. Then, in the fMRI machine, they were asked to play it from memory to establish a baseline.

Subsequently, the subjects were required only to use that composition's underlying chord structure as a basis for their improvisation. The rest was up to them. In this case, Limb said, "the musicians could really play as they wished."

The results were intriguing. Brain activity was nearly identical in both cases, Limb said, suggesting that the "altered state of mind" that occurs during improvisation is independent of musical complexity.

What's more, the researchers were able to connect improvisation to a very specific pattern of activity in certain brain areas, and one area, the prefrontal cortex (PFC), in particular.

The finding that the PFC is involved in improvisation wasn't a surprise, as it's often thought of as the center of higher cognitive processes. What was intriguing, however, was the contrast between deactivation and activation in different parts of the PFC.

Deactivation was seen in the lateral area of the PFC, which has been shown to consciously monitor, evaluate and correct an individual's goal-directed behavior. In other words, the musicians' normal, rational minds were subdued during improvisation.

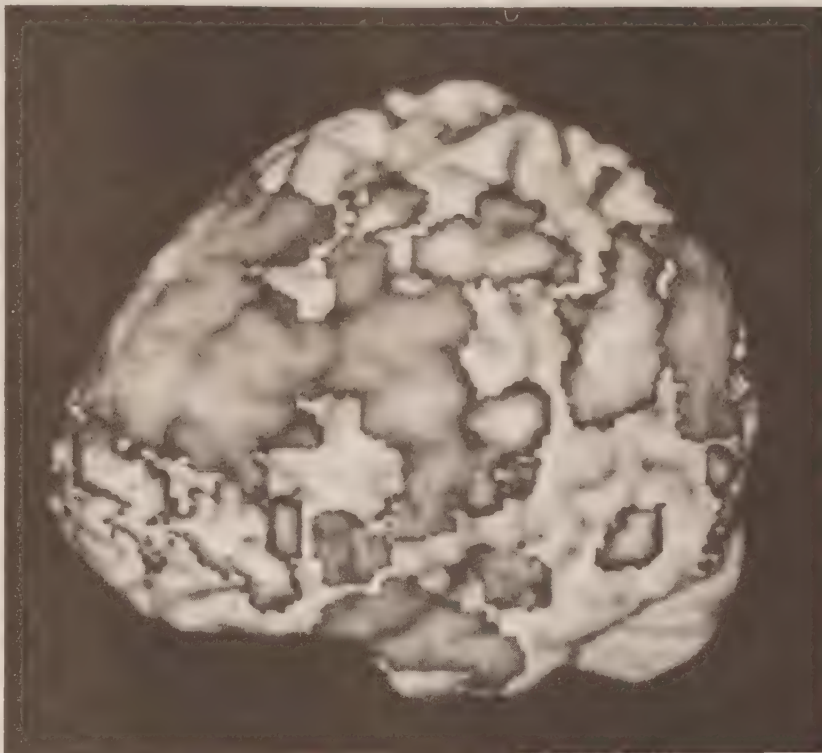
In contrast, marked activation was observed in areas closer

to the brain's midline, a region many psychologists believe underlies an "autobiographical narrative." This narrative is the intensely personal story of your own life, all of your memories and thoughts and beliefs.

PFC activity thus matched up precisely with the cognitive steps one would theoretically need to take in order to improvise jazz. A suspension of goal-directed behavior along with a heightening of personally relevant, internally generated behavior would allow unconscious thoughts and ideas to flow, while conscious strategies would be inhibited.

Limb and his colleagues noted that a similar pattern of brain activity is seen in people under hypnosis, or as they meditate or daydream.

Nonetheless, whether these results are universally applicable is uncertain. The study was done in a specific context (jazz piano) and used an elite population (expert jazz pianists).



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PLOS.ORG](http://www.plos.org)
A computer reconstruction of the fMRI results, showing activation of different cortical regions in musicians.

"Professional players are very capable of getting in the zone musically, while amateur musicians might be struggling with rudimentary aspects of music performance and never really enter a state of real creative outflow," Limb said.

Still, Limb suspects that improvisation-specific patterns similar to those observed in the jazz pianists' brains will be found elsewhere, such as in the brains of painters and writers. The mythical key to creative genius may soon be found.

New technique creates 3-D holographic images

By TIFFANY NG
News-Letter Staff Writer

"Three-dimensional holographic imaging" is no longer just in the realm of *Star Wars*. Scientists at Hopkins and Ben-Gurion University in Israel have developed a technology that actually allows 3-D images to be taken on microscopic samples.

The technique is called FINCH, for Fresnel incoherent correlation holography. To create a holographic image, a photograph is taken of the interference between two beams of light. One is reflected from the object and the other is a uniform reference beam.

These two beams must be "coherent," or originate from the same laser. If the objects are illuminated by normal "incoherent" light, or if the sample itself emits fluorescent radiation, the current holographic techniques fail.

The basic principle of FINCH, however, takes advantage of this shortcoming and allows holograms to be generated from incoherent white light.

"If a beam is emerged from a single object point, and split to two beams, these two beams are mutually coherent to each other and can interfere," explained Joseph Rosen, co-inventor of the technique along with Gary Brooker. All of the interference patterns are then collected, generating the desired hologram.

Currently, holographic imaging can be performed, but multiple images must be taken and reconstructed to generate the hologram, which is often a time-consuming process. Addition-

ally, it requires microscope objectives with low resolving power, which offer less detail, whereas the FINCH system uses microscope objectives with the highest resolution.

"The FINCH is the only method in general optical microscopy that captures the entire 3-D specimen without scanning the observed space," Rosen said.

It is the fastest available 3-D microscope, and it requires no moving parts. Thus, the FINCH can also be used to record and display holographic images of moving objects, including rapidly occurring cell processes, which cannot be done with traditional 3-D microscopes.

The development of this technique could revolutionize the use of holograms. "The FINCH opens the possibility to take holograms without lasers and in non-laboratory conditions," Rosen said. The principle FINCH uses can also be applied to any wave medium, such as X-rays or sound waves.

This technology even has the potential to allow for the development of holographic cameras, whereby users can simply take a 3-D snapshot of any scene. FINCH also has potential in the medical fields of ultrasounds, CT scans and X-rays, as well as security screening and photography.

Not only does the theory behind FINCH provide the opportunity for widespread use of holograms, but applications of the technology could become available to the public in the near future.

Hubble spies youngest galaxy in universe

By JEROME SIMONS
News-Letter Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what our universe was like in its earliest stages? For all the curious, the Hopkins-run Hubble Space Telescope has just discovered one of the youngest and brightest galaxies in our universe.

The study, which appears in an upcoming issue of the journal *Astrophysical Journal*, promises to reveal crucial information about how our universe developed in the so-called *dark ages*.

Astronomers from several universities, including Hopkins, used the Hubble telescope to find the galaxy, called A1689-zD1.

The dark ages refer to the first few million years after the Big Bang, when the universe had started to cool but there was still very little organized matter. Galaxies like the one observed contributed significantly to the universe's development.

When you look up at the night sky, you are really looking back in time. Since the speed of light is finite, the light you are seeing today might have been emitted centuries or millennia before. For example, it takes sunlight three minutes to reach Earth, so the sun has been up for three minutes already when it appears on the horizon in the morning.

The Hubble telescope, one of the most powerful telescopes ever built, has peeked back farther in time than almost any other device.

What is special about this particular galaxy is that astronomers had never before observed such a well-organized object so far back in time. It was surprising to find a newborn galaxy only about 700 million years after the universe began. Scientists estimate the universe is about 13.7 billion years old.

In this way, astronomers are capable of writing a type of history book of the universe by discovering objects that are farther



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.NASA.GOV](http://www.nasa.gov)
A NASA artist's conception of the galaxy, A1689-zD1, which is the youngest known.

and farther away — in distance and in time.

To detect this galaxy, astronomers had to use special imagers on Hubble because the galaxy is invisible to the naked eye due to an effect known as red shift.

Since our universe is expanding, every object — stars, galaxies — is moving away from us. This motion has an influence on the light that is emitted by them: the waves are being stretched out by the outward motion, which causes their wavelength to increase. An increase in wavelength causes all of the light emitted by that object to become more red or infrared from the perspective of viewers on Earth.

A second trick was needed to see this object: gravitational lensing. Nearby star clusters are used to magnify the light of the object. According to Einstein's laws, heavy objects in space attract everything, including light. So the actual path of light is bent and travels on a curve around a

massive object such as a star cluster. Following this logic, the telescope does not look right at the galaxy but rather a little to the side to see a ray of light.

Despite these efforts to hunt for every bit of light, all Hubble can see are knots and blurry images, which still reveal a lot compared to the detail of other objects so far back in time.

The researchers are currently following up the Hubble observation with the Keck telescope on Mauna Kea, Hawaii. This is an important part of the study since they need one more source of information to confirm the distance of the galaxy.

As of now, the scientists are eager to observe the same galaxy with Hubble's planned successor, the James Webb Space Telescope, whose primary mirror will be seven times as large when it launches in 2013. Its partner on Earth will be the ALMA radio telescope, which will be completed in 2012.

Maternal antibodies may cause autism

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

An infant's health is at the forefront of every pregnant woman's mind. There are many factors that can be controlled — taking the right vitamins, eating the correct foods. But research on autism, a devastating disorder of brain development, indicates that sometimes a mother's body can affect a child's health unintentionally.

A group of researchers at Hopkins has found evidence that a mother's immune system might trigger the eventual development of autism in her child.

"Despite an intense research focus, the underlying etiology for most children affected with autism is unknown," said Harvey Singer, a pediatric neurologist at Hopkins and the lead author on the study.

Autism appears in the first few years of childhood, usually at four or five years of age. Some signs are visible even earlier; at birth, babies with autism have smaller brains compared to non-affected infants. About one in 150 children are diagnosed with the disorder.

Characteristic symptoms include problems with social interaction, including communication and language, as well as repetitive behaviors.

Research has shown that environmental, genetic and immunological factors can all play a role in the development of autism.

Singer and colleagues at Hop-



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.UOREGON.EDU](http://www.uoregon.edu)
Events during pregnancy could trigger autism. This ultrasound shows a 32-week fetus.

kings and the Hopkins-affiliated Kennedy Krieger Institute, which specializes in childhood development, undertook a study to look at the role of the immune system in the onset of autism.

"This study represents only the initial step in proving an immunological association with autism," Singer said.

Antibodies are part of the body's immune system. They are sent out to mark foreign particles in the body for destruction. Unfortunately, antibodies can sometimes turn against the body it is supposed to protect, recognizing

the wrong substances and setting off an inappropriate attack on healthy cells.

It is known that certain antibodies can be passed from mother to child; this mechanism accounts for the passive immunity babies are generally born with.

Singer and his group found that, in some cases of autism, pregnant women's bodies actually raise antibodies against their babies, which sets off a series of events that slowed the normal development of the infants' brains.

The team found that mothers of children with autism had heightened levels of certain antibodies during their pregnancies. "The presence of specific antibodies correlated with the presence of developmental regression in the affected child," Singer said.

"About 40 percent of mothers with autistic offspring had significant differences on Western immunoblots," Singer said, referring to analyses conducted on fetal fluids to measure levels of certain anti-brain antibodies.

This finding suggests that there may be a truly devastating link between maternal antibodies and autism. Singer's team and others are now moving toward a greater understanding of the causes of the illness.

The next step of the research is aimed at trying to discover which proteins are engaged in this immunological backfiring, in hopes of being able to prevent this process.

AUTISM AND VACCINES

Since the late 1990s, a controversy has raged about a possible link between early childhood vaccinations and autism.

Some parents have raised concerns that the MMR vaccine, which immunizes against the viral infections measles, mumps and rubella, caused their children's autism.

A controversial 1998 study by Andrew Wakefield, a British physician, offered some evidence for this theory.

Many scientists have attempted to duplicate Wakefield's results with no success. Tests of the virus used in the vaccine and

the preservative have shown no significant health risk.

The MMR vaccine is generally given when a child is about two years old, which is a year or so before the earliest symptoms of autism may appear. This coincidence could explain the appearance of a link.

Various scientific and medical groups, including the National Academies of Science and the Centers for Disease Control, have said the vaccine is essentially harmless.

Most public schools in the U.S. require the MMR vaccine, although parents can opt out.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Protein chip helps study of bacterial DNA Artificial proteins alter immune function

By APURVA YELURU
For The News-Letter

Hopkins researchers have devised a new way of identifying the proteins that are active in a cell. By using a specially designed chip, scientists from the biology department were able to identify which enzymes are most commonly used by the bacterium *E. coli* when there is an error in its genetic code.

DNA, which holds the core information of the cell, is prone to many errors. The four nitrogen bases that form the double-stranded molecule are often disfigured or mismatched.

The cell has a natural repair mechanism, in which proteins recognize mistakes in the DNA code, and fix the errors. Knowing what proteins are involved in this process could potentially aid in developing a cure for genetic diseases.

The prospect of identifying the repair proteins may seem easy, but the methods for procuring such information are very difficult. A eukaryotic cell, such as an animal cell, makes millions of proteins that assist the cell in its functions. Singling out the DNA repair enzymes is an almost impossible task.

This task is daunting even in a much simpler prokaryotic cell. *E. coli*, for instance, manufactures 4,288 proteins. The Hopkins team has become closer to identifying most of *E. coli*'s proteins, but it would take too long to isolate each protein and observe its function.

Scientists have characterized 99.3 percent of the cell's proteome, or the complete set of proteins made in the cell. The Hopkins group used these proteins to make a chip that can easily search for their presence in cells.

The proteins are extracted from the cell and purified, and then embedded onto a glass slide, called a proteome chip. The chips contain trace amounts of all the proteins that an *E. coli* cell makes.

In order to see which proteins are involved in DNA repair, the researchers had to first create strands of DNA with errors. In this study, seven short strands of DNA were used: one without errors that served as the control, two with mismatched bases, and six with one abasic or misshapen site each.

To fix these errors, a repair enzyme removes the wrong base and inserts a new one. The first step in this process involves rotating the erroneous base out of the strand; this is the crucial step



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV
Biologists have identified a few proteins in *E. coli*, shown under electron microscopy.

that indicates when a protein is at work. Researchers colored the DNA molecules, called probes, with a fluorescent dye that becomes visible when there is one base flipped out of the strand.

Hence, the researchers added the probes to the proteome chips and observed which proteins activated the fluorescent dye, indicating that those proteins are repairing the errors on the DNA probe.

Two proteins out of the entire *E. coli* proteome stood out, YbcN and YbaZ, as both had high affinity for the fluorescent dye. Further biochemical tests were done

on these proteins to confirm that they were, indeed, base-flipping proteins that assist in DNA repair.

Although this is only the first step, the team of researchers is on track to identify the rest of the repair proteins. The proteome chip process greatly reduces the amount of time taken, as it allows the researchers to test a large number of proteins at once.

Further research could include isolating the proteins that can recognize DNA damage in eukaryotic cells, which could lead to identifying causes and cures of some genetic diseases.

By BARBARA HA
News-Letter Staff Writer

Hopkins scientists have developed a technique that boosts the immune system, offering an intriguing new way to modify its activity. The group, led by Scheherezade Sadegh-Nasseri from the School of Medicine, created artificial proteins that could help researchers create a new type of vaccine.

The human immune system is designed to protect the body from foreign invasive particles, called pathogens, such as bacteria and viruses. The first step in this defense is to recognize the pathogens, which the immune system does using specialized cells called B-cells, among others.

B-cells will ingest or destroy a foreign body, like a bacterium, that is floating around in the bloodstream. B-cells then take a little piece of protein from the bacterium, an identifying mark called an antigen, and put it on their own surface.

Antigen presentation, as it is called, allows other immune cells, called T-cells, to recognize the offending bacteria and attack them. In this way, the immune system can target and destroy specific pathogens.

Sadegh-Nasseri and her team found a way to enhance the B-cell's recognition of pathogens, which causes an increase in immune activity. They did this by manipulating the major histo-

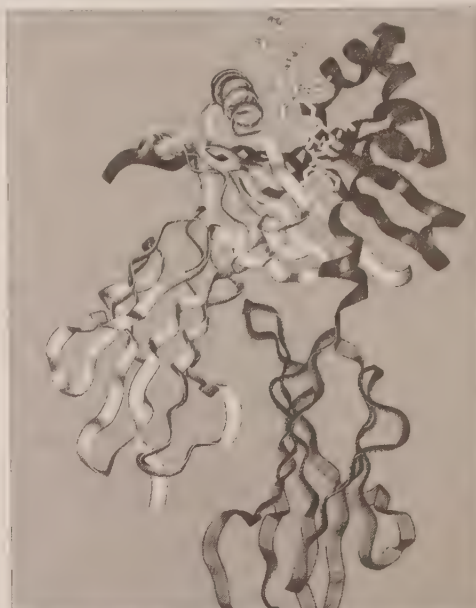
compatibility complex, or MHC. The MHC is a protein on the surface of B-cells that acts a bit like a roadside billboard. The MHC captures antigens from bacteria or other pathogens and then holds them out for T-cells to see. Once a T-cell sees an antigen on a B-cell, it knows what kind of pathogen to attack.

If they could alter the function of the MHC, Sadegh-Nasseri and her team reasoned, it might be possible to manipulate the immune system to recognize artificial antigens.

The MHC, like all proteins, is made inside the cell. While it is being processed on its way to the cell surface, its groove — the place where an antigen will eventually bind — is held open by another protein called CLIP.

Once the MHC gets to the cell surface, it is ready to bind to an antigen. A protein called DM catalyzes the exchange of CLIP for an antigen inside the groove.

The Hopkins



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.BBK.AC.UK
The crystal structure of the MHC. Antigens bind near the top.

Advanced scans could distinguish brain tumors from other damage

By DEANNA CHIECO
For The News-Letter

For a person with a brain injury, invasive and risky biopsies are usually needed in order to determine the type of lesion. However, with advances in neuroradiology, there are imaging techniques that are now being tested for their accuracy in detecting certain types of brain lesions.

In a recent article from the *American Journal of Neuroradiology*, researchers at Hopkins Hospital studied the effectiveness of different imaging methods in distinguishing between types of brain injuries. This study could allow for non-invasive diagnosis of brain tumors.

The group used two similar diagnostic tests, proton magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging (MRSI) and perfusion magnetic resonance (MR), to differentiate between high-grade and low-

grade tumors.

High-grade tumors are considered neoplastic, meaning they exhibit new, uncontrolled tissue growth — they are potentially cancerous. There are other types of brain lesions that are considered nonneoplastic, such as injuries from strokes or demyelination, the loss of neurons' insulation that is related to conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

Conventional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) can be used to diagnose brain tumors. However, MRI generally gives a structural picture of the brain without information about metabolism and blood flow, which are also impor-

tant for tumor diagnosis. MRI is unable to accurately differentiate between neoplastic and nonneoplastic masses.

MRSI is a technique that combines the structural data from conventional MRI with chemical information from nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

The researchers hypothesized that MRSI should provide a high-resolution analysis of brain lesion anatomy, chemistry and blood flow patterns.

Perfusion MR, which provides information on cerebral blood

flow and volume, would be used to improve or confirm a diagnosis made on the MRSI data.

In this study, 36 patients with high and low-grade brain tumors were studied as part of the group with neoplastic lesions. Additionally, 33 patients with nonneoplastic lesions, including stroke and multiple sclerosis, were studied. The diagnosis of all of these patients had already been made.

The researchers wanted to see how their new method would compare to the standard. They used conventional MR imaging to identify the region in which the lesion was located. Then perfusion MR and MRSI were performed on patients.

Researchers compared various chemical ratios and blood volumes to better characterize the previous diagnosis. They also tried to establish cutoff values from MRSI and perfusion MR data that would indicate the type

of lesion and could be used as diagnostic standards.

MRSI was most successful in distinguishing between high-grade and low-grade tumors. Perfusion MR was also effective in tumor discrimination, yet it could not distinguish between low-grade and benign tumors. Using these methods, the researchers were able to confirm the original diagnosis 84 percent of the time.

Also, MRSI proved effective in diagnosing patients with demyelination, often the result of multiple sclerosis. If these types of lesions cannot be detected with conventional MRI, MRSI provides important metabolite data that can suggest a diagnosis.

Future research into the new applications of these imaging techniques could lead to better diagnostic tools for brain lesions, perhaps minimizing the need for invasive and dangerous biopsies.

Tech Briefs

Apple to open iPhone software to outside developers

In an attempt to increase sales of iPhones, Apple, Inc. has confirmed plans to reveal the phone's software design to allow outside programmers to develop their own software for the device.

By allowing more programs to run on the iPhone, Apple hopes to increase consumer demand, bringing it closer to its goal to have 10 million iPhones sold by the end of the year.

Many of the new features will be aimed at businesses, with hopes of creating competition with Research In Motion Ltd.'s popular product, the BlackBerry.

Previously, outside programmers were only able to develop software for the phone on the web, not programs that could be installed on the phone itself.

Since the iPhone's launch, many customers have figured out how to crack Apple's restrictions to install unauthorized programs.

Cracking or "unlocking" the iPhone is particularly popular among those who wish to make the iPhone available to other phone networks.

AT&T is the exclusive U.S. carrier of service to the iPhone, but it is possible to unlock the phone and transfer its services to other carriers.

It is estimated by Bernstein Research that about a quarter of iPhones have been unlocked. There is a fear that clamping down on illicit iPhone service

use would decrease the phone's sales.

The software map will be unveiled by Apple on March 6 at its Cupertino, Calif. headquarters.

The types of features to be allowed have not yet been disclosed, but many professional users have demanded "push e-mail" which would allow the sending of full e-mail messages from a corporate mail network to the phone.

— Heather Barbakoff

Online phone service Skype now on Sony PSP

Get ready to say "Konichiwa" to your friends in Japan — for free.

Starting next month, a program that allows users to make free phone calls over the Internet will be found on Sony PlayStation Portable (PSP) devices in Japan.

Since January, Skype communication software has been available for PSP in America and Europe.

The Japanese branch of Sony had planned to release a micro-telephone with PSP that would not have been compatible with Skype. After a two-month delay, the new compatible microphones will be available for the yen equivalent of \$24.

A division of American online auction company eBay, Inc., Skype reportedly has 276 million users registered across the globe. The modified PSP could be available later this year in the U.S.

— Marie Cushing

General Motors prepares battery-operated car

In 2010, General Motors (GM) will introduce America to hybrid cars with engine systems powered by lithium-ion batteries.

The system will enter the market before the debut of the Chevrolet Volt, an electric car, later that same year.

This system will reportedly deliver triple the power of the company's current batteries, which are made of nickel-metal-hydride in current gas-electric hybrids.

Lithium-ion batteries have long been considered the crucial element necessary for the mass production of hybrid vehicles and future developments with

electric cars. While these batteries are commonly used in everyday electronics, previous concerns over cost and overheating had prevented their use in larger devices such as cars.

While GM did not say which versions of the car would include the new hybrid system, those that do will also include gas-saving systems that turn off the engine when idle and cut fuel during deceleration.

Mercedes-Benz will introduce lithium-ion battery powered versions of its S-Class luxury sedan next year. Toyota will begin using the batteries in low-emission cars in December.

These announcements were made Tuesday at the Geneva International Motor Show. GM has the largest sales of any automaker in the world.

— Marie Cushing



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.AUTOMOBILEMAG.COM
The Chevrolet Volt, set for 2010, will be one of the first cars with lithium batteries.

Device lets you control iPod with blink of an eye

It is now possible to change songs on your iPod with a blink of an eye.

A recently developed remote control from Japan, called the "KomeKami Switch" or "Temple Switch," will make this possible. The device uses sensors to detect movement in the user's skin around the eyes.

The sensors are placed in eyeglasses or headphones.

Developed by Kazuhiro Taniguchi of Osaka University's Graduate School of Engineering Science, the device allows infrared sensors to create an electric signal. The signal is then transferred by microcomputer to work the iPod.

The remote takes eye commands: a one second wink will rewind a song, a wink with the other eye will skip a song forward. Closing both eyes will allow a song to be paused or stopped.

The system is even designed so as not to malfunction when the user walks, eats or talks and is able to tell the difference between an intentional direction and an inadvertent eye movement.

Similar sensors have been used to allow paralyzed individuals to control televisions, computers and wheelchairs by blinking their eyes or making other subtle facial movements.

There are currently no plans to sell the device in the U.S.

— Heather Barbakoff

Working out: iPod to be made compatible with gym equipment

Nike and Apple have teamed up once again to make the iPod work with gym equipment.

The companies announced on Tuesday that they are working on ways to make it possible to plug the iPod Nano into cardio equipment.

This announcement comes in conjunction with several exercise equipment manufacturers and the health clubs 24-Hour Fitness and Virgin Athletic Health Clubs. It is expected that the technology will be available at over 500 gyms worldwide by this summer.

The Nano would be able to track multiple aspects of a user's workout, including the ability to set goals. The information would then be able to be uploaded to a Nike Web site.

Nike and Apple teamed up on an earlier project which created Nike+ technology, allowing a sensor in certain Nike running shoes to wirelessly communicate with the iPod Nano. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 runners sign up to use the Nike+ technology daily.

The expansion to the gym hopes to benefit from the Web site's popularity.

The Web site allows people to track their progress, buy specialty songs and join social network features, such as those aimed at challenging others in fitness goals.

— Heather Barbakoff

YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Hopkins guys without any game

By SARAH FEINMARK
For The News-Letter

My parents claim that they come to visit Hopkins for the la-grosse games, but I know that the only reason they drive from New Jersey is to take me grocery shopping. After our triumph over Princeton's Tigers this Saturday, we hopped in the car and drove over to Giant to pick up some fake meat and several gallons of diet iced tea. An aisle away from the soy milk, I spotted a fellow student. Ducking behind the adult diapers, I calmly explained to my dad my aversion to running into "Kreepy K." When in a crowded frat house basement, it is almost acceptable for an ungainly Hopkins male to grope a little too close to a female's unmentionables, but I was less than willing to receive a way too touchy greeting from my awkward acquaintance in the dairy isle. But those wandering hands don't even make the top 10 things that Hopkins boys do to drive the ladies away.

10. The Geek Who Tries to Bring the Classroom into Your Pants
We all read that article about how the pheromones in male sweat attract women, but in reality, not washing yourself is just gross. Don't use your notes from Human Sexuality to score because it's not going to work.

9. The Virgin Freshman Who Thinks One Kiss Means a Relationship
I'm no Joan Collins, but I'm pretty much an equal opportunity kisser (excluding those who fall into the categories in this article!). If a girl kisses you, it probably means she's drunk. Or maybe she just likes the sound that lips make.

8. Those Who Care either Too Much or Too Little about Hygiene
We know it might be cold in the winter, but I promise, once you towel off, showering isn't really that bad. Try it. Please. For our sake. And while on the topic of hygiene: you look like a hobo. Shave off that stupid beard and get a haircut. Please do not misconstrue my advising you to keep clean as a suggestion to get blonde highlights, go tanning, or get manicures and pedicures. That's just as weird. Simply try not to look a mess. Thanks.

7. The Guy Who Thinks Drinking Too Much Makes Him Macho
Boys, stop trying to out-drink me. My Eastern European blood gives me an advantage. I know you're a frat boy and I'm "just a girl," but ... c'mon. Seriously. Minus a hundred points for throwing up anywhere in my vicinity. Or in a water fountain. Or on your lap. In a car. Off the side of a holy building on an Inter-session field trip ... Furthermore, I am not bad at beer pong, and "you don't have a schlong" isn't a good enough excuse for why I can't play next game.

6. The Athlete Who Thinks his Biceps are Enough to Woo You
Steroids often have side effects involving an increase of estrogen in men. I may not know anything about how much protein to put in my shake, but I can put two and two together. I'm supposed to be the one with breasts, not you. (The same goes for those who spend too much time in FFC. At this stage in my life, I would like to be the only one in my bed with knockers.) We've all had about enough of the guys who think their bobs are totally hot.

5. The BME Who Thinks We Care About his MCAT Score
I know you worked hard, and as a student I appreciate the time and effort you put into studying for the MCATs, but in reality, and I think I can speak for most of woman-kind here, hearing about your high test scores is not a turn on. We've all had about enough of the guys who think their grades are totally hot.

4. Facebook Stalkers ...
You friended me on Facebook the day after I got my acceptance letter, and I was stupid enough to put my room in the AMRs in my location information. When you follow me home, do NOT think that I'll judge your coolness by how many other freshman girls you were able to friend. You're a creepy senior, and you should definitely leave me alone. Forever.



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

3. The Frat Boy Who Thinks He Has the Right to Have Your Body Just Because He Wears Letters
I'm Greek and I wear letters, but I know that it doesn't give me the right to walk up to you and start fiddling with your button fly. (And on that note: Guys who wear pants with button flies, period.)

2. The Guy Who Thinks You Should Feel Honored to Watch Him Play Video Games
Video games are fun ... to play. I've done my time and watched plenty of Smash. Isn't it my turn to "pwn" you? There is nothing enjoyable about watching you play with your friends. Why would you even think I would want to sit there for two hours and clap when your Pikachu figure manages to knock Link off the edge? Furthermore, there is a huge difference between an offer to hang out and listen to some tunes and an offer to hang out and watch you play Guitar Hero. We prefer the former. Unless you have two controllers, in which case, can I play the bass line?

1. The Boy Who Thinks Going to MSE with you is a Date
"Well, we both have to study ... do you want to come with me?" No. Being in the library on a Friday night is sad enough in and of itself. There is no way I'm slapping on a skirt and some make-up to sit in a study room for the whole night while you talk about your math homework. While you drone on about the probability of getting heads and solve for the annulus (I believe it's the area between two concentric circles), I'll be dreaming of completing the D-Level Challenge with someone who stands a chance.

Working out outside of the rec center

By CARA SELICK
Your News-Letter Editor

The rec center on campus happens to be incredibly far away from many students' abodes. Personally, as an incredibly lazy person, I find that just walking there turns out to be enough of a workout in itself and is a great deterrent from getting in actual exercise.

However it is a common misconception that one has to constantly lift weights for hours on end to stay in shape. The American College of Sports Medicine recommends a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity on most (if not all) days of the week for general good health.

While going to the gym is probably the most efficient way to lose weight or tighten up, there are many things you can do that are fun to at the very least stay healthy.

Spring has almost sprung, although the weather has been playing mind games with us lately. As long as you check the weather report beforehand and dress appropriately (getting sick does not help your health!) it is an excellent idea to take a walk. And while walking the 15 minutes to class may be better than nothing, it's not exactly intensive cardio.

If you have a dog, do both him and yourself a favor and take him on an extra long walk. Or take your non-furry friend instead! Walking is a great way to get in some easy, relaxing cardio, catch up on gossip with your best friend, spend some extra quality time with your significant other and explore Baltimore a little more.

Just please make sure you know where you're going before you start walking so that you don't end up in a neighborhood you perhaps don't want to be in!

During our random days of warm weather, the Beach has already begun to fill up with various people doing various activities. While it may be tempting just to sunbathe, and while I fully recommend completing your homework before you play around, it's a good idea to get in on some of the sporting action that happens on the grass this time of year.

You can, without a doubt, find a group of guys throwing around a baseball, Frisbee or football, or perhaps even kicking around a

soccer ball. Ask to join in, and, especially if you're a cute girl, I'm sure they'll say yes. You'll have a blast and maybe even make a few new friends.

In addition, doing something FUN makes moving so much easier. After all, wouldn't you rather run after a football (and do a victory dance once you've caught it) than run in place on a treadmill?

And, speaking of victory dances, another great way to trick yourself into moving is to dance. I don't care if it's drunken at a frat party (off of vodka and Diet Coke rather than a calorie-rich beer!) to Lupe Fiasco or in your room in your underwear to Britney Spears, but getting up and shaking your groove thing is a great way to get your blood pumping and your body metabolizing.

Also, dancing can really help relieve stress, especially at a place like Hopkins. While any exercise helps lower stress levels, dancing is especially good at getting the job done, due to its nature: It lets you let loose and just have a good time!

Another way to have a good time while staying active is, well, to do the naughty. Admit it, we all love sex. But, especially during the weekly grind (no pun intended), we usually tend to keep it on the more demure side, as far as physical movement goes. While lying down in bed, staying close to each other may be the most comfortable and intimate position, if you want a real workout, there are several other options.

The first



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY

Dog-walking is one way to get some exercise outside of the gym.

Essentials that a Hopkins student should never be without

By RIP BUSSEY
For The News-Letter

The Johns Hopkins University takes pride in the stress and neurosis it causes its students. Here on Homewood campus, everybody feels the pain of their workload and, eventually, everybody cracks. Once one also takes into consideration the school's less-than-perfect social scene, the seriousness of our dire straights cannot be overlooked. Fortunately, I'm here to help you people out. I've selflessly dedicated my time here to wringing this school dry of every bit of fun so that I can share my knowledge of the pleasurable with you, the reader. The following list should be used



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Showing Hopkins pride on your clothing is an easy way to fit in.

as a reference guide, as if it were one of you people's solutions manuals. It was written with the Hopkins everyman in mind, and it will keep you (somewhat) sane while here. I've lived this lifestyle for a good four months now and can honestly say that, despite some mild liver issues and a complete disregard for self-respect, my level of happiness has been entirely acceptable.

1. Fanny Pack. While I realize the utilitarian nature of such a device effectively justifies its existence in any circumstance, recent laws of fashion have deemed its donning taboo. Those who proudly wield the crotch pocket risk being socially ostracized and de-friended on Facebook. Around Hopkins, however, fanny packs are making a come back. Kids of all size and mental stability can be seen marching around Homewood, proudly toting their junk in the front. I would like to formally welcome the fanny pack back into acceptability. Plus, one can easily shove the rest of the things on this list into a fanny pack, thus making the Hopkins experience more tolerable. Alcohol helps with

that, too.

2. School Apparel. Let's be honest: Many a Hopkins student needs a little help when it comes to fitting in. Fortunately, the good people over in merchandising have thrown us a bone in the form of clothing emblazoned with the school logo. Not only can this stuff be carelessly thrown on in lieu of any outfit, but it makes a statement: Sure, I may make you feel uncomfortable now, but in 10-odd years my social incapability will be outweighed by massive amounts of money. That's right — Hopkins gear labels you as someone on the road to success and points out to the opposite sex that you've made better life decisions than they. Don't believe me? Put on a Jhop sweatshirt and wander over to Towson. Just be sure to bring safety.

3. Bluetooth Headset. Still in the vein of making the Blue Jay socially acceptable, I recommend folks pick up a wireless headset that enables them to answer the phone without the hassle of having to reach into their pocket, press the green button and put the device against their face. Thankfully, the headset saves us the sweat and hassle of cell phone usage so that we may redirect our precious energy towards those two donuts we're struggling to double-fist. The Hopkins undergrad needs the portable piece for another reason entirely, however: the earpiece has made the "crazy guy screaming at himself" look suave and capable. With the earpiece, Hopkins's army of kids who talk to themselves will look less nuts and more like they have finally found someone who shares their concern over infi-

tesimals and their beef with Archimedean property.

4. Beer Goggles. Now that we've worried about you, let's do something to make everyone else more appealing. While I won't tell you a specific brand (Jose is my man), I will readily attest to the necessity of a good set of goggles. Let's all be honest with one another: We didn't come to this school for its looks. If Hopkins were a girl, I'd still be avoiding her 10 beers in. But modified perception makes everything easier — especially in an environment as demanding as this. Problems melt away, girls become goddesses, and guys finally say something interesting — all with the coaxing of a cold one. Remember: Memories of college are supposed to be hazy at best.

5. Lotion and Tissues (or batteries). And then reality sets in. We've snapped on our sweet-ass fanny pack, masked our psychosis with a fly earpiece and rocked our "It's Hopkinsssssss..." T-shirt, yet it's 3 a.m. and we find ourselves back in our dorm room, alone and sticky with beer. We're drunk, we're depressed, and that host on TV grows more and more attractive as she rambles on about male enhancement. Welcome to Hopkins after-hours. It happens to the best of us. Sometimes, when the school's questionable social scene gets us down, we just have to man up, remind ourselves that we're going to be rich as hell someday, and grab the Jergens. Hopkins ain't hot, but she's the only booty call we've got.

Happy hopping, Blue Jays.

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Adi Elbaz

Do you want to travel but are crippled by \$30 billion in student loans? Don't worry; this playlist of international music can transport you all over the world from the comfort of your (already paid for) dorm room.

Mixalis Rakintzis - "Sagapo" (Greece)
Probably one of my favorite "so-bad-it's-good" songs ever. The catchy beat and laughably bad singing make it an international karaoke favorite!

Black Cats - "Joone Khodet" (Iran)
The catchy, salsa-inflected beats recall Mexico or Cuba. Think reggaeton... in Farsi.

The Lucksmiths - "Camera Shy" (Australia)
With their mellow tunes and often ironic lyrics, the Lucksmiths deserve to be a lot more famous than they are.

Tuttim - "Etnix" (Israel)
I have no idea how a song whose chorus is "Strawberries! Strawberries!" can be so damn catchy and danceable. Refrain from listening to it when you're grocery shopping, as it might lead to dance parties in the produce aisle.

Thandiswa Mazwai - "Lahl Umlenze" (South Africa)
A mellow but still catchy beat combines with multilayered vocals for a really cool sound.

Jhoom Barrabar Jhoom- "Shankar Mahadevan, Sunithi Chauhan & Sukhwinder Singh" (India)
Though the title translates awkwardly into English as "sway, properly sway," the insanely catchy beat will, in fact, impel you to do just that.

Sigur Rós - "Olsen, Olsen" (Iceland)
Super-mellow complex orchestral arrangements and supple, stretchy vocals create the perfect international lullaby.

Maximo Park - "Kiss You Better" (Ireland)
There is nothing better than musicians with Irish accents. Nothing!

Ragheb Alama - "Ahebik" (Lebanon)
A funky East-meets-West mixture of traditional Oriental sounds and hip-hop beats.

Ayumi Hamasaki - "Trauma" (Japan)
Okay, I know I'm being a total Hopkins cliché by including JPop on this list, but Ayumi is really catchy ... until she starts to sound kind of like a eunuch.

Maksim - "To Become a Wind" (Russia)
If this were in English, I'd feel guilty for succumbing to the teeny-bopper beat and princessy tweaked-sounding vocals. But I'm pretty sure listening to girly pop just makes me totally cultured.

CARTOONS, ETC.

your Horoscope



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
"Spring forward, fall back," is a good way to remember the impending time change that's coming up this weekend.



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
"Break me off a piece of that Kit-Kat bar," was a popular slogan in the '80s and '90s. Want to get rich? Write a new slogan.



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Is your bed-wetting issue causing a rift between you and your roommate? Just get the adult diapers already.



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
The best way to make bad decisions is to spend the night with a handle of cheap vodka. You're welcome.



Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
Best holiday ever? Has to be St. Patrick's Day because what other Saint is responsible for that much alcohol consumption?



Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Kind of sad you're a Virgo? Wish you'd been born a mighty Leo? Hey, just be glad that you're not a Cancer.



Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Of all the things you could do to piss off professors, insulting their own books while they are standing behind you is pretty bad.



Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Break out of the mold! Don't follow the crowd! Now get back in line and wait your damn turn. Who do you think you are?



Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You people don't know how hard it is to write these every week. I have to look into my crystal internet ball and figure out your life.



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
Can you tell me what is easier than a televised course? It mixes entertainment and education ... it is absolutely genius!



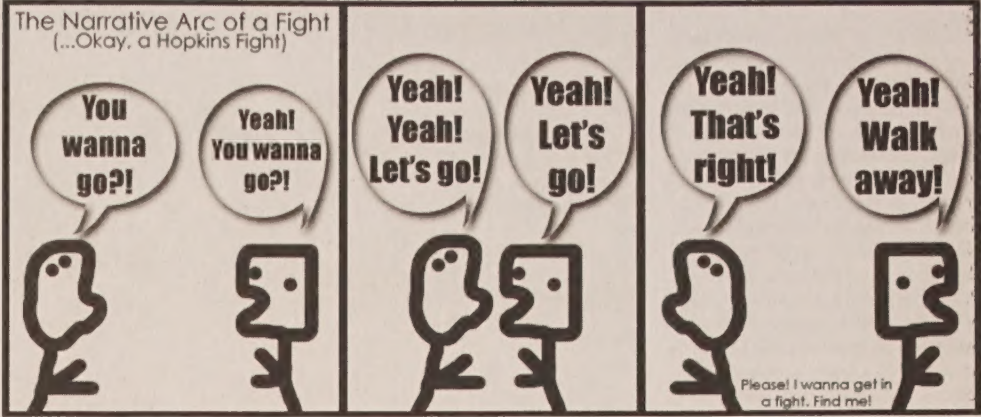
Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Ever wonder what is so intriguing about *America's Next Top Model*? It's really the desperation of the young "models."



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Get out of your dorm because it's spring! That's all you have to do this week to be happy and successful.

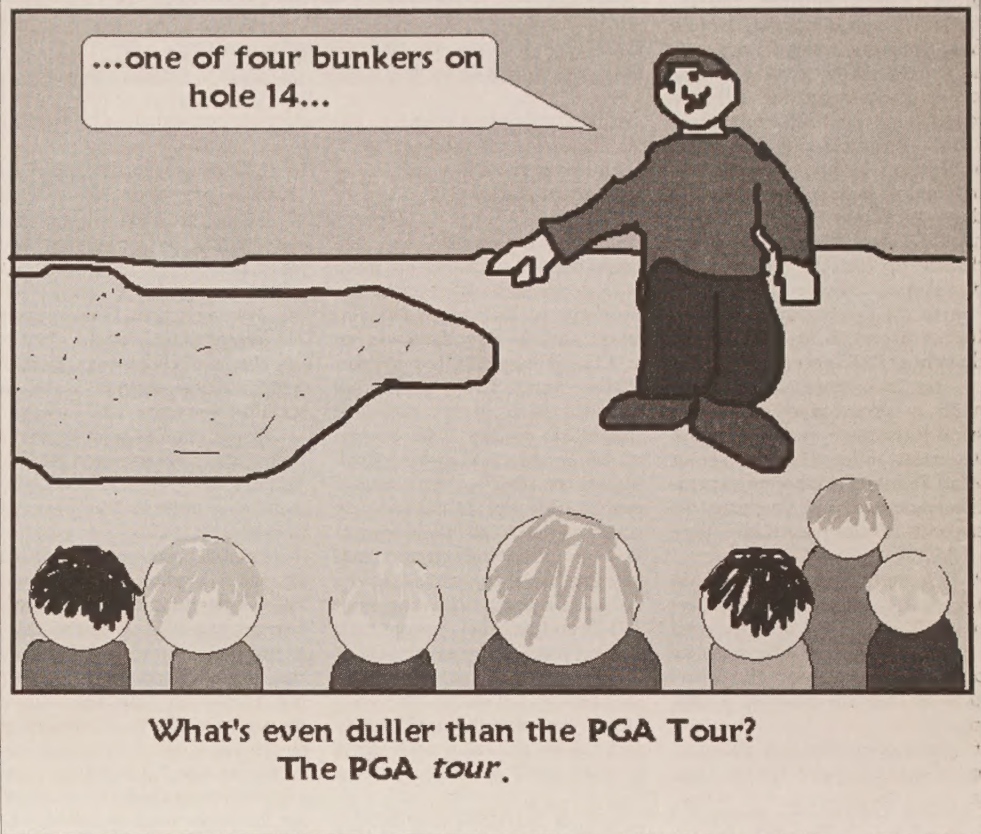
Comicali

by Joe Micali



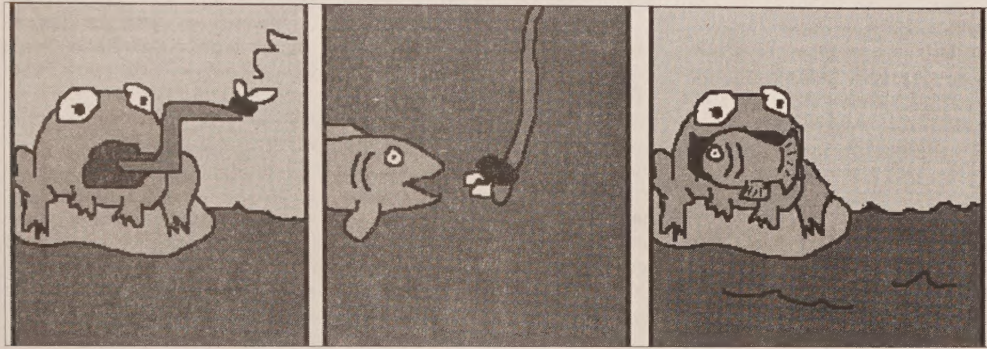
A Photo in Time

by Nate Min



Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



Third Person Objective

by B.G. Warner



Sudoku

	8	3	6			7		
	7		9		1	6		
	6						2	
4						1	6	
7			3		6			2
	1	6						3
	5						9	
		8	2		5		1	
		9			3	4	8	

An Apologetic Quilt of Comedy

Dear Readers,
I really screwed this one up. This column was supposed to be due at 3 p.m. on Monday (which is already a pretty generous deadline). Right now it is 6:12 on Monday.

What happened, you ask? The short answer is that I just plain forgot about it. The longer, more complex, more truthful answer is that I just plain forgot about it. Whoops.

So here's what I'm going to do: I've got some thoughts and scribbles lying around. Odds are that not one of them would be sufficient to sustain a humor column on its own, but cobbled together they just might work. So that's what I'm going to try.

Remember that AIDS quilt from the '90s? This is going to be like that. All cobbled together, a mash-up of different pieces that don't really look good together, but that bring everyone to tears because the thought is so touching and Maya Angelou read a poem in front of it or something.

This column is going to be the 2008 version of the AIDS quilt. Except instead of raising awareness for AIDS, it'll raise awareness of my crappy memory. But in all other ways, it's exactly the same.

The first piece of the quilt: Right now there's a billboard on North Charles Street, just north of Penn Station, that's advertising for the Baltimore Opera. Here is the exact text of the billboard:

board: "Opera. It's better than you think. It has to be." Is it just me, or does that ad reek of the purest and most blatant form of desperation? The implied final line is "Because we know you think that opera is the stupidest thing ever." Perhaps the same ad agency could put up political ads such as "Mike Huckabee. He's less crazy than you think. He has to be." Or perhaps an ad for Alaskan tourism: "Getting mauled by a bear. Come on. It can't hurt that much."

Adar Eisenbruch Let's Talk

Next piece of the quilt: Two weekends ago I flew out of town for a couple of days. The stars must have been in alignment, because I found myself sitting in the exit row — in the aisle seat. For anyone who doesn't know, this means extra leg room. It's magnificent. Any exit row seat is great, but the exit row aisle seat is basically the holy grail of air travel.

In honor of the occasion, I wrote six haikus before take-off. Here they are:

Haiku One:
In the exit row
I stretch my legs, Oh! The joy!
While others suffer
Haiku Two:
If this plane goes down

I'd save lives, be the hero.
All that, and leg room.
Haiku Three:
God, I don't ask for much.
So just one favor: all rows should be exits.
Haiku Four:
Flight attendant, skip The nuts. I'm busy doing Yoga in my seat.
Haiku Five:
Doing the can-can
On an aeroplane? Who knew?
I'm now a seat snob.
Haiku Six:
I can stretch and twist
And cross my legs if I please.
Suck on that, first class!

The final piece of the quilt: I recently made an appointment at the health center to get tested for STDs — all of them. I have no reason to believe that I have an STD, but there just comes a time in a man's life when he realizes with mild pride and complete terror that he should probably get tested for everything under the sun.

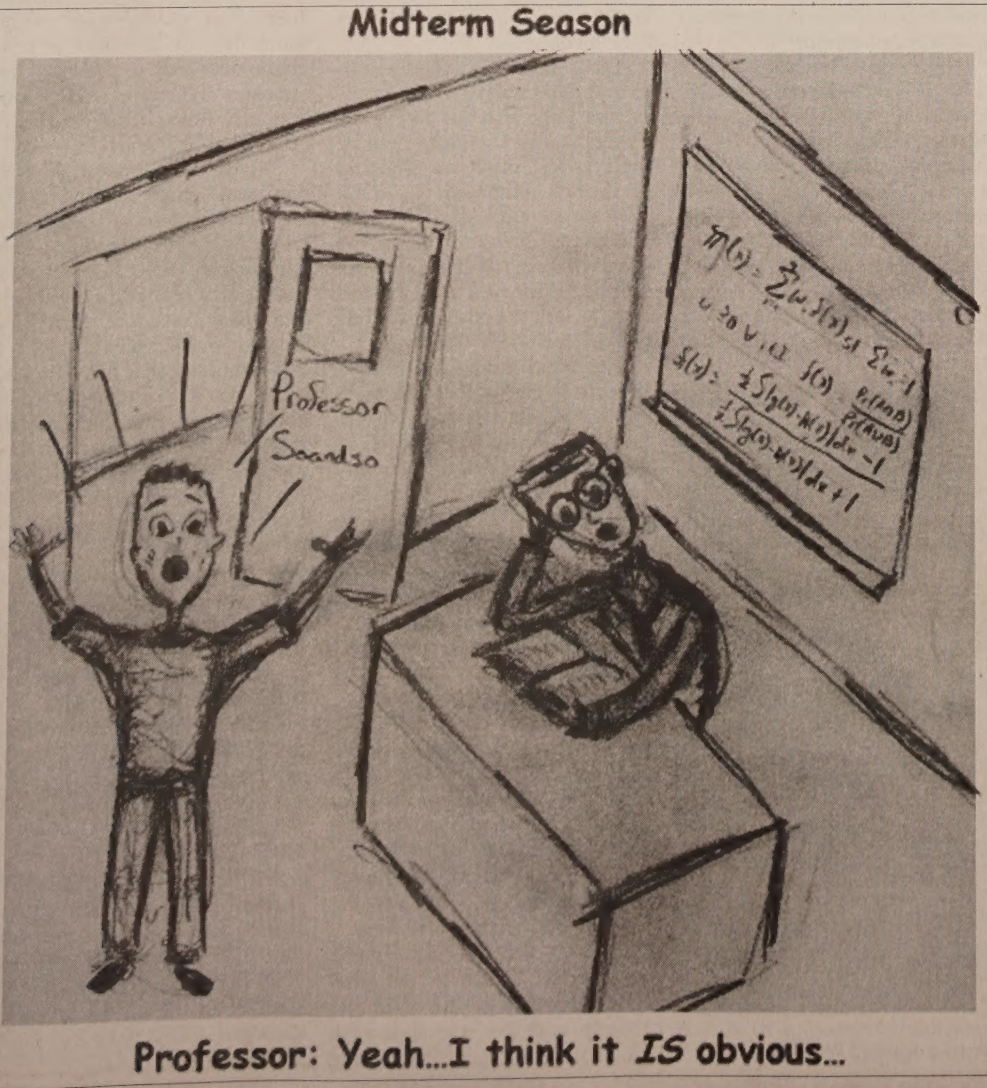
The receptionist told me that my appointment is with "Allegra." Something tells me that Allegra is not a man. Barring the possibility that I have an appointment with an allergy medication, Allegra is probably a woman.

This brings up all sorts of embarrassing possible scenarios. Is there such a thing as a happy ending after someone has swabbed the inside of your urethra? Probably not.

Well that's my quilt. Might we have a poem, Maya?

The Stephen Fedderation

by Stephen Fedder



SPORTS

Men's swimming places second at ECAC tourney

By ERIC GOODMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

The ECAC men's swimming and diving championships came and went this past weekend at the University of Pittsburgh, with Hopkins taking second place. Head Hopkins swimming coach George Kennedy was named Coach of the Meet. The ECACs, which featured Division I, II and III teams, was the Blue Jays' final showcase before the NCAA Championships in a few weeks.

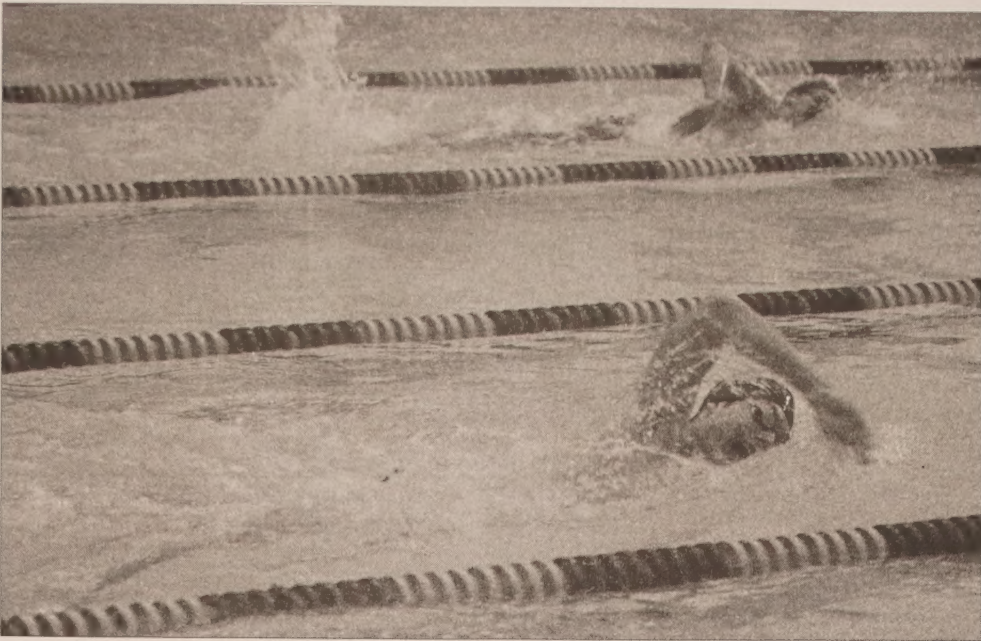
"The NCAA entries were sent Monday, so this was the last time to qualify," Coach Kennedy said. Thus, the Blue Jay swimmers knew the importance of this meet.

The three-day meet took place from Friday to Saturday. The Jays got off to a good start on the first day, finishing in third place with 123 points. Hopkins won the first event of the meet, the 200-yard freestyle relay, with sophomore Chris Whelan, senior Brad Test, sophomore John Thomas and freshman Brian Keeley finishing with a time of 1:23.72. Keeley would follow the strong performance up later in the 200-yard individual medley, finishing fourth. In the 50-yard freestyle, Test finished in first place in a scorching 20.85 seconds.

The Jays finished day one with a second-place finish behind Pittsburgh in the 400 medley relay, with Thomas, senior Matt Fedderly, sophomore Spiros Moisiades and Test finishing two seconds off the pace with a time of 3:22.29.

"Overall I was happy with where I was individually," Test said. "I was pretty disappointed in the 200 freestyle relay, because we were trying to qualify Chris Whelan, but we came up a little short."

The second day brought even more good fortune for the Blue



Two Hopkins swimmers in an ECAC Tournament race. Hopkins placed second in the ECAC, sending 10 swimmers to Nationals.

Jay swimmers, as they moved up from third place to second place by the end of the day. Hopkins started off with a fifth-place finish in the 400-yard medley relay, with sophomore Neil Mahoney, Fedderly, sophomore Teddy Bulakul and Keeley finishing in 1:34.12. Following that performance, junior Colin Kleinguetl finished sixth in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:06.96, his season best time. Moisiades then swam a career best 51.17 in the 100 butterfly to finish eighth. Test then continued his individual success from day one, finishing second in the 200-yard freestyle clocking in at 1:41.75 and narrowly missing out on first place. Hopkins then took fourth through sixth places in the 100-yard breaststroke, with junior John Kegelman, Fedderly and Keeley finishing with times of 57.44, 57.62 and 57.64 respec-

tively. To finish the day, Hopkins received two very strong first place finishes to push the Jays into second place. Thomas finished first in the 100 backstroke with a time of 49:75, and the 800 freestyle relay team consisting of Mahoney, junior David Postetter, Test and Thomas finished in 6:48.81, three seconds ahead of second-place Harvard.

"It was good to see that I was pretty close to my best times," Thomas said. "So it was a really promising meet in preparing for nationals."

Hopkins came into day three 40 points shy of Harvard, and knew they would need a very fast day to make up the margin. Kleinguetl started off the day by placing fourth in the grueling 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 16:07.87. He was followed by Thomas, who continued his dominance at the meet by winning his second individual event, the 200 backstroke, in 1:49.58, one hundredth of a second ahead of second-place finisher Josh Rosenbluth of Rider University. The Jays swam fantastic races in the 200 breaststroke with Fedderly, Kegelman and Keeley finishing first, third and fifth respectively. Kleinguetl then finished fifth in the 200 fly with a time of 1:53.22. The Jays finished the meet on a positive note with a win in the 400 freestyle relay, swam by Mahoney, Bulakul, Thomas and Test in 3:03.95.

While performing very well as a team, Test, Thomas and Fedderly confirmed their status as three of the best Division-III swimmers in the nation.

"[They] are three of the best swimmers in DIII," Kennedy said. "Each of them has won the DIII National Swimmer of the Week Award and all three race well. They all have something that no coach can teach — the killer instinct ... and they all handle this differently. It is fun to work with them and I cannot wait to see them excel in two weeks at NCAAAs."

Up next for the men's team are the NCAA Championships, which will take place from March 20 to 22 in Oxford, Ohio. Ten men's team swimmers, Test, Thomas, Fedderly, Kegelman, Mahoney, Postetter, Sershon, Moisiades, Kleinguetl and Keeley qualified for Nationals, with Test and Thomas qualifying in six events, and Fedderly qualifying in five.

Coach Kennedy knows that even though the season will end on such a high-pressure meet, the team's practices will focus on trying to alleviate some of that pressure. "The team will focus on fine tuning starts and turns, doing a touch of power work, speed work and rest," he said. "Each of them has an opportunity to have a lot of fun at the meet — so our practices will be upbeat."

Inside the dugout: a preview of this year's baseball team

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

Despite the fact that their season opener was postponed, the Hopkins baseball team does not plan on losing any momentum as they open their season on Tuesday, March 4 at home against Messiah. When people think about what 2008 means for the team, many things come to mind. Experience, depth, a mission, high expectations. Payback. This year's roster is one of the deepest that Hopkins has had in almost 30 years, and head coach Bob Babb has a lot to look forward to in the upcoming weeks. Last year, Hopkins was just one game shy of a trip to the College World Series, and that is what is in their scopes for the upcoming season.

Captain and senior shortstop Jonas Fester doesn't think that the Jays lost any momentum with the original opener being cancelled. "Our work ethic has been better than I have ever seen it," he said. "Our team has the ability to be intense without being tense, keeping us focused on improving, but staying relaxed and having fun throughout the process."

Each position is strong for the Jays, on the field and behind the bats, making them the obvious favorite in the pre-season Centennial Conference polls. Around and inside the plates, the Blue Jays have a senior-strong line-up. On the left side of the infield, coach Babb returns Fester at shortstop and Todd Emr at third base. Fester and Emr will make up two-thirds of the captain squad this year. Senior Nate Adelman, who could see some time at all three of the four infield positions, will probably start the season playing second base. He's a solid defensive player, and has a great bat as well. First base is going to be home to senior Matt Benchener, and the Blue Jays hope that he will enthusiastically help them on both offense and defense.

The main theme of the team this year is the mentality of "taking care of business," no matter who it is they are playing. They take one game at a time, or, as Fester says, "one inning at a time". He goes into some detail about this approach. "We have games against some ranked opponents, but who we play is not that important," he said. "We just have to play to our

ability and get things done. We had a bus driver named Mac once say, 'There are two things I want you to do for me today ... number one: handle your business, and number two: Handle your business.'" Fester is confident that the guys behind him will be able to back them up.

The outfield is not going to be lacking any talent this season. Hopkins is going to have two of three starters from last year, both of whom were First Team All-Centennial selections. Senior and third captain Rob Pietroforte is ready to return to center field, hoping to have his best season. Senior Jon Solomon comes back to play left field, and he earned all-conference honors last year. Right field is a bit more open, but Coach Babb will have some difficult game-time decisions to make. Sophomore Brian Youchak was the projected starter last season before an injury in February cost him the year, but the coaching staff believes he brings quite the power option with him. Seniors Nick Venezia and Isaac Katz both saw time in the outfield last year and could factor into the mix again this year, adding even more potential depth and competition.

In terms of catching and pitching, the Blue Jays are a scary force to be reckoned with. Two players are ready to take their positions behind the dish. Senior Tony Margve and sophomore Joe Borrelli are going to have to battle it out to see who will be relaying signals to the impressive pitching staff. The entire pitching staff from last year returns to the field this year, and the strength of the Jays will undoubtedly grow from it. The pitching stars will surely shine this season, and they will play a key role in Hopkins's success. It's the bullpen that will definitely make the Jays stand out and foster the one-inning-at-a-time mentality. Fester is more than willing to give his opinion. "The strength of our team is our pitching staff," he said. "If we are going to do anything special this season, it will be because of their depth and ability. We have some real professional prospects, and some guys who will leave their hearts out on the mound."

After the season-opener on Tuesday March 4, they face Stevens Tech in a doable header on Saturday, March 8 at 12 p.m. at the Hopkins baseball field.



FILE PHOTO

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Men's Lacrosse	3-0 record Ranked #1 in nation
Women's Lacrosse	1-2 record Ranked #14 in nation
Men's Track	3rd in Centennial
Women's Track	2nd in Centennial
Men's Fencing	25-12 record MACFA Champions
Women's Fencing	16-13 record 3rd in NIWFA
Men's Swimming	2nd in ECAC
Baseball	1-0 record

Women's lax slipping after loss to Princeton at Homewood

By ALEX IP
News-Letter Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team kicked off a five-game home game on the wrong foot Saturday, suffering a hard fought 5-7 loss against the Princeton Tigers, bringing Hopkins's season record to 1-2.

The match started out evenly, with both teams alternating goals in the first half. The game was knotted up at five by senior midfielder Kadie Stamper 10 minutes into the second period. But going forward, the offense failed to keep the pace with the Tigers — the Jays allowing the go-ahead Princeton goal and an additional insurance point to go unanswered.

"[Our] offense created a lot of chances for themselves but didn't finish when they needed to," head coach Janine Tucker said.

This was also the Lady Jays'

first home game of the season, but a rocky and inauspicious start was not part of the blueprints in the team's campaign for a national title in their 10th season as a Division-I squad.

The team has maintained mental tenacity so far, making quick course corrections to follow up their season-opening loss at George Mason with a dominant 12-2 win over the George Washington University Colonials on the Tuesday prior.

"Every game we play is tough, so there is no other option except to bounce back, no matter who we play," Tucker said.

Seven different Blue Jays scored a barrage of nine consecutive goals in the victory against the Colonials, highlighted by sophomore midfielder Paige Ibelo, sophomore defense Angela Hughes and freshman attack Ashley White all scoring their

first career goals. The Hopkins defense also shined, quelling all offensive outbursts for nearly 50 minutes of the game.

The Jays had an equally stunning defensive performance against the Tigers but, unfortunately, didn't have as much luck. Senior midfielder Kirby Houck produced a career-high four of the team's 11 forced turnovers. However, in this close game, that wasn't enough to tip the scales in their favor.

The team knows that will have to find more offensive consistency and hope that the five goals scored against the Tigers will be their lowest offensive showing for the rest of the year.

"I am encouraged by the hustle and effort I saw and I know the shots will start to fall in for us. We will be focusing on shooting this week as well as polishing our ride and offensive sets," Tucker said.

Freshman midfielder Brianna Cronin, a player that the team has leaned on, has been an unforeseen hero who has emerged as a standout player by currently holding the team-high of five goals scored this season. Comparison of Cronin can be drawn to the performance of sophomore attack Sam Schrum who also had a breakout first year, scoring four goals in her first three games and finishing with thirty goals — the second-most on the 2007 team.

Also lost in the shuffle was the debut of junior Jess Buicko as a goalie. She initially wanted to make the transition from attack to guarding the net as a joke but had past experience as an ice hockey goalie in high school, and finally followed through with learning the new position this offseason.

Buicko entered the game against the Tigers in the final moments but was shot on immediately, and she was successful in keeping one goal from being

potted.

"It was a lot of pressure because I basically went in cold, and to have the last five minutes of a tight game with Princeton be your first Division-I game as a goalie is kind of nerve-wracking," Buicko said.

Buicko hopes to man the backfield for many more times this season and to deliver her own self-described idiosyncratic manner of goaltending to the team; this, in an effort to provide a new look to the Hopkins offensive and defensive schemes that may help throw off future opponents.

"I have a different style than our other three goalies; I'm a lot more aggressive outside the crease with groundballs and attempting to knock down passes. I think that if anything, it'll help our attack to see a different kind of goalie in the net," she said.

Freshman goalie Julianne Wisner is also one of the less experienced players that have become major pieces of the puzzle at their position. She has fit in well, seeking the counsel of her longer-tenured teammates, who have advised her on how to handle the pressure and criticism that comes from playing at Hopkins.

"Guidance is an understatement. I have been given the opportunity to play on a team with three other goalies who have been in the exact situations that I am experiencing today. They are my biggest supporters, and they are the first ones I heard cheering when I made my first save against GW," Wisner said.

With the many weapons at their disposal, the Lady Jays are itching to bounce back once more and finally get a firm grip on a win streak beginning this Friday, when the girls take on the Georgetown University Hoyas on Homewood Field.



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Freshman attack Ashley White maintains possession against a Princeton defender.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
PATRICK STANLEY. WRESTLING

Rough rider, southern gentleman lassoed into one

By MARY DOMAN
Sports Editor

Yee-Haw! Gather round, y'all, for the *News-Letter's* Athlete of the Week. Coming from all the way down yonder — Charleston, S.C., Hopkins has been graced with the Southern sweetness of freshman wrestler Patrick Stanley.

Well, let me tell y'all about how it all started. Last week, Pat headed to the Conference Championships and walked into the tournament seeded fourth out of eight wrestlers. "When people see 'South Carolina' in my information, sometimes they think I'm a dumb Southerner who doesn't know how to wrestle," Stanley said.

Boy, did he sure prove them wrong. First he faced the number five seed, sophomore Patrick Doherty of Gettysburg. After Stanley delivered a 14-5 slaughtering, it was clear that this cowboy didn't come to play games. Next, he faced the number one seed, Vince Renaut. Renaut is a six-foot-tall freshman from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy who was ranked sixth in the nation his senior year of high school, finishing second in Senior Nationals. Did you hear he's majoring in "Straight Engineering," too? I don't even know what that is, but it sure sounds intimidating. But Stanley took him down easier than buttering a biscuit. This semifinal match was the highlight of his season. "It kind of vindicated my high school post-season," he said. After that, it was clear that he was fixin' to take the whole tournament. And he did, sending Washington and Lee's senior team captain Anthony Boniello straight back home.

And that's how we've come here to celebrate this mighty little whipper-snapper. He sure does have some dirty tricks on that wrestling mat that'll make anyone shake in their boots. For him though, it's not about fancy tricks or shortcuts. "I just go as hard as I can," he said, "and it's been pretty productive." Not everything's been easy-riding for Pat, though. When he came to Hopkins, he had won 104 straight



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

matches at the end of his high school career! Needless to say, his first loss was tougher than a hard

slice of rump roast beef. "It was hard to get myself back together after my first loss," he said. But the fire in Stanley was too strong to let a few losses pin him down for good. Boy, you best believe he got right back on that horse and rode strong through the rest of his season. Another thing Pat won't give up is his southern manners. "I definitely consider myself a southerner," he said. Being from Tennessee, I had to ask him to prove it. First, he's got a Ford F150 named the King Rancher. "I love it. I could seriously live in that thing," he said. Second, he's got a 22-foot sea-hunting boat named Suzie Q. Her name, of course, comes from Pat's mama, who has five other Stanleys in addition to our Athlete of the Week. Third, and most important, of course, Pat swears he's a Southern gentleman.

Many of y'all Northern folk may not be familiar with this term. Basically, the Southern gentleman

does everything that the Jersey frat boy doesn't. This includes, according to Stanley, things like simply walking a lady home or opening doors. He always treats girls with respect, he says, because it was part of his upbringing — after all, he does have four sisters. "I just think about what I would want for my sisters," he said.

A gentleman and a conference champ at such a young age? Seems like Stanley's got quite a bit figured out for a youngin'. "I'm really grateful for it all," he said. "Sometimes I feel like I don't deserve all my wins because I'm only a freshman." His teammates, though, stand on the other side of the fence. "He definitely wrestled up to his full potential and it showed in conferences," teammate Eric Levenseller said. "He's one of the hardest working

kids on the team."

When he's not in the rough and tough rumble of his favorite sport, Pat loves to kick back with good friends. A perfect day for him? "Wake up early, call my friends to come out on the boat, gas up, get some subs and drinks, go offshore for half the day, catch a dozen mahi-mahi and mackerel. Then we ride back and meet some more friends in a random creek and party until it starts to get dark. Once we're back on land we go out to my farm and grill out by the pool. Then

we start a campfire and crack jokes until there's no more wood to burn."

This easy-going attitude is what makes Pat unique in the wrestling world. "I'm definitely different," he said.

There sure is something mighty fine about the way he carries himself. He's pleasant, casual, and takes his time. Before a match he listens to Bob Marley, Dave Matthews, Jack Johnson and other easy jam-bands. "I just try to mellow out before the match," he said. He doesn't even look at the scoreboard or brackets to know who he's going to wrestle.

And even though he's heading to the National Championships, he's not letting go of this feel-good attitude. As he saddles up for the weekend, he admits, "I know I should be nervous ... but I have no nerves at all." Again, the Athlete of the Week offered a refreshing peace with life, leaving me quite in awe. Such a combination of grace and simplicity! Then again, my impression may be affected by my surprise when he, poised and nonchalant, opened the door for me when the interview was over. What a gentleman.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Junior Ben Dorfman took sixth place, securing the only top-10 finish for the team.

Dorfman, Benedictus top off fencing teams' seasons

By SIMRAN HUNDAL
News-Letter Staff Writer

The varsity fencing teams had an overall solid showing at this weekend's NCAA Mid-Atlantic Fencing Regionals in Madison, N.J. as they come to season's end.

While the Jays did not produce terrible results, they were still disappointed by a long, record-setting season fought for a merely good final tournament. Among those who were disappointed include junior foil, Grace Fried, who put it flatly, "I was really disappointed at this season's regionals," regarding the women's results.

However, the entire weekend spared a few highlights: Junior Ben Dorfman took a career-high sixth-place in the foil.

Other great performances include junior foil David Ferguson who placed 13th, missing the finals by a spot. Freshman Nick Krywopusk took home 16th in the epee, and in the sabre, senior Aaron Fernandes was Hopkins's top representative, finishing 19th.

On the ladies' side, freshman Sofia de Benedictis, junior Grace Fried and sophomores Samantha Dolan and Katie Kim all had above average performances in the foil, placing 17th, 19th, 20th and 22nd respectively.

Within the sabre division,

freshman Mary Vitale captured 18th, leaving senior captain Cindy Liu to take 20th in the epee. Even though the ladies are proud of individual successes, the team is not content with their performance as a whole.

This past weekend, however, is atypical in comparison to the team's 2008 season. Some of the highlights for the men included the 25th overall title at the Middle Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association Championship and a 22nd epee title there, both records capturing runner-up positions in both the foil and the sabre.

The men's team also maintained a 26-11 overall record for the season, tying the school record for most wins in a single season.

The women's team also entertained a terrific season, placing third in the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association Championship, capturing a runner-up finish in the foil, taking fourth in the epee and placing eighth in the sabre. Captain Liu also obtained a spot on the NIWFA All-Academic Team.

Freshman Krywopusk is optimistically looking into the future, commenting, "Our skills are going to keep improving, so I predict we will have a good season next year."

Track and field sets records at conferences

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Tristan Thomas set a new school record with their time of 1:32.42. After one full day of competition, the women were in third place in the standings with 36.5 points, while the men were in second place with 47 points.

"I had no doubt that we would be scoring a lot on the second day," Ireton said, "so I didn't think too much about being in third on the first day. Our game plan on the second day was the same as the first, to run as hard as we possibly could in every race, and we were pumped and excited to see what would happen," she said.

Day two's field events started with the triple jump, where once again, Lossing was able to help the team, finishing eighth with a jump of 9.57 meters and winning the high jump with a final jump of 1.60 meters. The height sets a new standard at Hopkins as the new school record.

Reeves wasn't far behind, finishing fifth with a jump of 1.50 meters, while junior Kathy Horn rounded out the Hopkins scorers for the event, placing eighth with 1.35 meters.

Mikkilineni was the top Hopkins finisher in the 55-meter hurdles. Qualifying in 9.07 the previous day, Anita finished fourth overall with a time of 9.14. In the 55-meter dash, Hopkins saw strong performances from Osborn and Reeves. Osborn had the top qualifying time from the previous day at 7.50 and was able to turn that into a second-place finish on Sunday, running a 7.55.

Reeves finished seventh in the event, posting a time of 7.81. In the 400-meter run, Ireton, the lone Jay in the event, was able to earn five points, finishing in fourth place with a time of 1:00.14. Kit Harris added on three points

with her sixth-place finish in the 800, running 2:25.25. Ireton and Osborn were able to score in the 200 meter dash as well, finishing in fourth (26.71) and eighth place (26.95), respectively.

Needing points to pull away from Dickinson, the 3,000-meter run saw Hopkins runners take first and third place. Hogen won the event in 10:27.97, and Hiza, who was seeded 13th, was able to pull off the third place upset in 10:39.23. Hiza's performance once again qualified her for ECACs.

In the relays, the 4x800 team of Dodd, senior Kelly Gonzalez, freshman Elizabeth Laseter and Harris finished sixth in 10:14.88. The 4x400 team set a new school record, as Mikkilineni, Osborn, Dodd and Ireton ran 4:09.97, finishing in second place overall.

On the men's side, Waddell continued racking up points as he finished fifth in the triple jump with a jump of 12.95 meters, and third place in the high jump with 1.86 meters. Senior co-captain Michael Palantoni jumped his way to seventh place in the high jump with a height of 1.81 meters. Junior Peter Li's throw of 14.36m took second place in the shot put.

Tristan Thomas was able to narrowly hold off Ursinus's Brandon Evans as he won the 55-meter dash in 6.55. His qualifying time the day before of 6.51 was a new school record. Cottrell was able to finish fourth in the event with a time of 6.71. Thomas was also able to finish seventh in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.14.

Freshman Brahma Kumar and Walker were the top Jays in the 400 with times of 53.34 and 53.39, good for sixth and seventh place. Sotuyo placed second in the 800 with a time of 1:57.23, the only

Hopkins scorer in the event.

The 4x800 meter team of Mack, sophomore Noah Jampol and freshmen Eliot Wehner and Brandon Hahn earned a fourth-place finish of 8:06.55. The highlight of the meet came when Waddell was named the outstanding field performer of the meet, the first Hopkins athlete ever to receive the award.

The award came well-earned, as Waddell single handedly scored 23 of the men's 108 points. "I was very honored to receive the outstanding field performer award, especially since there were a lot of great competitors in all of the field events," he said.

Commenting on the men's finish this weekend, Palantoni said, "Overall this was the best meet the team has had in recent history. Not just because of our performance, but because of the fact that this was a true team effort. We knew going in that we were going to have a chance to score in every event, and as a result this meet became much more team focused than it has ever been in the past."

On the women's side, Reeves said, "I find it incredible that despite the fact we were missing some of our key point scorers due to injury or having graduated, we still managed to not only get second place for the second year in the row, but we beat our previous point total. I feel that this was a great conference championship for the women, and puts us in a great position for outdoor season, where we will go for gold."

The season continues next weekend for both the men and women, as those who were able to qualify for ECACs will be competing at the ECAC indoor championships in Boston, hosted by Harvard University.

M. lax sticks to undefeated record

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

Despite a depressing first half for the Tigers, the Princeton squad rallied in the second, intent on salvaging some dignity. Although some of the Hopkins intensity had diminished, the Blue Jays remained fast and extremely fluid. The team responded first as Rabil put a laser shot through the pipes, his third of the game. After the Rabil goal, Princeton regained some of their mojo with a quick goal by junior middle Brendan Reilly. From there, the two teams would go back and forth, creating an unusually high-scoring game.

The Jays' final goal of the day came from a laser shot by Kevin Huntley from the outer edge of the box, his fifth of the game. With the score at 14-6, the Tigers gave one last death rattle with a final spree of three goals by Greg Seaman, Alex Haynie and a tipped shot by Jack McBride with four seconds remaining in the game, making the final score 14-9.

Hopkins's outstanding scoring performance proved that they

have an arsenal of weapons on the offensive side of the ball and no one player can be taken lightly. Seven different Blue Jay players scored in the game. However, the tag team of Huntley and Rabil proved to be the dominant force in Saturday's game. After a somewhat muted performance against Albany, Rabil played like a man on fire, totaling seven points with three goals and four assists, earning him the honor of Player of the Game. Huntley led the goal count with five.

Rabil, however, remained modest about his performance. "One thing we focus on a lot is just ourselves and bringing the energy within our team," Rabil said. "That's one part of the game that you don't look at your opponent in. You look at their tendencies, you scout their offense and their defense, but one thing you keep to yourself is your own team's energy and your own team's momentum," he said.

One also can't ignore the stone wall between the pipes, sophomore goalie Mike Gvozden.

Gvozden seems to have filled the void left by graduating senior and last year's National Championship MVP Jesse Schwartzman. Gvozden totaled 11 saves on Saturday, including several from difficult crease shots. Gvozden credited his team's offense as the force behind his defense's performance. "The bigger of a gap we have, the more confidence we get," Gvozden said. "I think that really helped us get off to a good start defensively because they were shooting great shots on a great goalie, so when Princeton had the ball and came down and we were playing defense, we were very confident."

Despite coach Pietramala's mild discontent with the second half of the game, he was extremely proud of his team as a whole. "The significance for me is to be able to put on a shirt or a hat and see young men who I have great respect for and care about a great deal put on a jersey or a helmet that I'm just so proud and privileged to be a part of," Pietramala said. "If I didn't coach I'm not sure what I'd do, because going to work every day and being around three guys like these guys [Rabil, Huntley and Gvozden], that's what makes my job special."

The glory of the team's win on Saturday proved Hopkins to be a dominant force in the nation. However, Pietramala and the team continue to look forward, one game at a time. Regarding the team's following game against UMBC, Pietramala said, "All I'm looking out for is the team in yellow and black that we play on Tuesday night and that's all I'm thinking about right now. We can't afford to look beyond practice tomorrow and then UMBC."

Hopkins defeated UMBC in a close 10-8 finish on Tuesday. The next challenge for the Blue Jays comes this Saturday as the men head up to Hofstra University to take on the Pride.



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior midfielder Paul Rabil goes for one of his seven points against Princeton.

SPORTS

M. lacrosse annihilates fifth-ranked Tigers

By DEMIAN KENDALL
Sports Editor

The men's lacrosse team proved why they are currently the number-one team in the country in Saturday's Konica Minolta Face-Off Classic game against Princeton. M & T Bank Stadium's purple seats became an ocean of blue as Hopkins fans poured into the stadium to cheer on the defending National Champions. Like always, the Blue Jays didn't let them down, tearing through the fifth-ranked Princeton Tigers to a 14-9 finish.

The Jays came ready to play, and they certainly didn't waste any time. At the opening whistle, senior midfielder Stephen Peyser handily won the face-off and Hopkins took the first possession of the game. On the fast break, senior midfielder Paul Rabil fed sophomore midfielder Michael Kimmel a quick assist for the game's first goal within the first ten seconds of play. From there, Hopkins took total control of the game.

Hopkins scored eight unanswered goals from Peyser, Rabil, senior attack Kevin Huntley and



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Junior middle Andrew Miller and senior attack Kevin Huntley celebrate after their decisive win against Princeton on Saturday.

junior midfielder Andrew Miller before Princeton ever found the net. Princeton was able to take advantage of an extra-man offense with 6:56 left to play in the second period as senior attack

Bob Schneider laced a quick shot past sophomore goalie Michael Gvozden for Princeton's first goal of the game. However, Hopkins took control once again, ending the first half with a fourth goal

by Huntley and a final goal by sophomore attack Steven Boyle with 24 seconds remaining in the half. The Jays headed into the locker room leading by a score of 10-1.

"In regards to the game, Princeton is a wonderful team," Hopkins head coach Dave Pietramala said. "To jump out on them like we did was kinda unexpected. I thought that's as well as we played since maybe we started practice. I'm very pleased with that."

"Their shooting was phenomenal," Princeton head coach Bill Tierney said. "We like to think we're a pretty good defensive team, but they just picked us apart in that first half."

CONTINUED ON PAGE B11

Track teams break JHU records at Conferences

By MIKE YUAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

This past weekend, the men's and women's track and field teams had their best finishes in school history in the Centennial Conference championships, hosted by Ursinus College. Both teams were able to break 100 points for the first time in school history over the two-day meet. The women matched last year's finish with a strong second place showing, scoring 108.5 points, while the men were able to finish with 108 points, good enough for third place, improving from last year's sixth-place finish.

Senior Becky Lossing got things started for the women as she leaped her way to 4.83 meters in the long jump, good enough for seventh place in the event. Senior co-captain Jessica Reeves also had a strong performance in the field, finishing second in the pole vault with a final vault of 2.89 meters. Junior Shannon Koh and freshman Logan Ashcraft were also able to tack on points, finishing tied for fifth and seventh, respectively.

On the track, junior Rachel Hogen led the Jays with a third-place finish in the mile, finishing with a time of 5:07.53, a new personal record. In the 5,000-meter run, junior Emma Hiza was able to top her old personal best by a whopping 15 seconds, dropping her new best down to 18:41.36 and qualifying her for ECACs.

In the relays, both the women's distance medley relay and 4x200 relay were able to pick up

some points. The DMR team of freshmen Kit Harris and Martina Dodd, and juniors co-captain Jordan Ireton and Rachel Hogen finished fifth with a time of 12:54.38. The 4x200 relay team, which included Reeves, Ireton, freshman Anita Mikkilineni and junior Paula Osborn, were able to take home third place, finishing in 1:50.10.

On the men's side, the victories started early as senior Chris Cottrell and junior Adam Waddell took third and fourth place in the long jump, respectively. Their leaps of 6.41 meters and 6.38 meters were both new personal records. Waddell went on to break his own school record in the pole vault, where his final vault of 4.57 meters led him to a second place finish. "It felt great to finally get over 15 feet, which has been a goal of mine for a long time now," Waddell said. Junior Matt Trachtenberg finished right behind Waddell, setting a new personal best of 4.41 meters.

In a field of 21 milers, sophomore Graham Belton nabbed a sixth place finish with a time of 4:26.19. Senior co-captain Patrick Brandon was the only scorer in the 5,000-meter run, finishing sixth in 15:24.83.

The relay teams both saw second place performances. Senior co-captain James Bronson, sophomores Gordon Mack and Nate Sotuyo, and Belton combined for a total time of 10:28.28. The 4x200 meter team, comprised of Cottrell, sophomores Pierre Hage and James Walker and senior

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INSIDE

Swimming: Silver finish

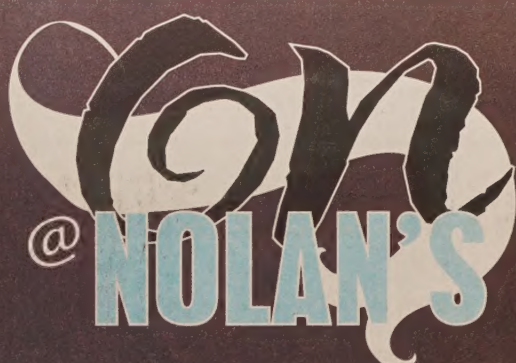
The men's swimming team raced to a second-place finish in the ECAC swimming and diving tournament this weekend. Several individuals were recognized at its closure. Page B10.

Athlete of the Week: Patrick Stanley

Freshman wrestler Patrick Stanley has recently earned the honor of Centennial Conference Champion and a trip to Nationals. But there's much more to this Southern gentleman. Page B11.

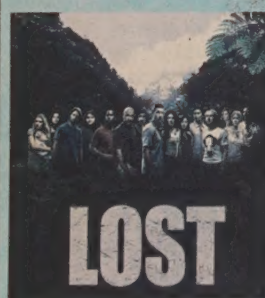
Women's Lacrosse: Princeton woes

The Lady Jays couldn't match the performance of the men's team this weekend as they suffered a tough loss against the Princeton Tigers at Homewood Field. Page B10.

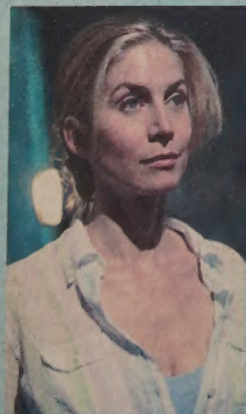


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Thursday 3/6



8-10pm
LOST



10pm
Coffee
Grounds

Sponsored by
the HOP
Free coffee & doughnuts

Friday 3/7

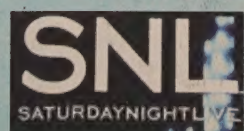


8pm
HITCH

Saturday 3/8



9pm
North Carolina
at
Duke



11:30pm
Amy Adams
with
Vampire Weekend

Sunday 3/9



8pm
DEAL OR
NO DEAL

9pm
FAMILY
GUY



Monday 3/10

5-8pm
Dinner
Jazz Jam



8pm
Gossip Girl
9pm
Deal or No Deal

Tuesday 3/11



8pm
AMERICAN
IDOL
9pm
NEW
AMSTERDAM



Wednesday 3/12

Live
WJHU
(hopkins student radio)
broadcast

contests,
games
& prizes...

Starts @
6pm

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